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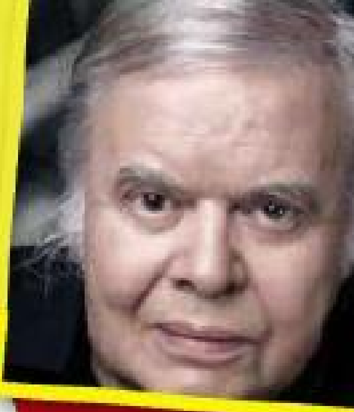

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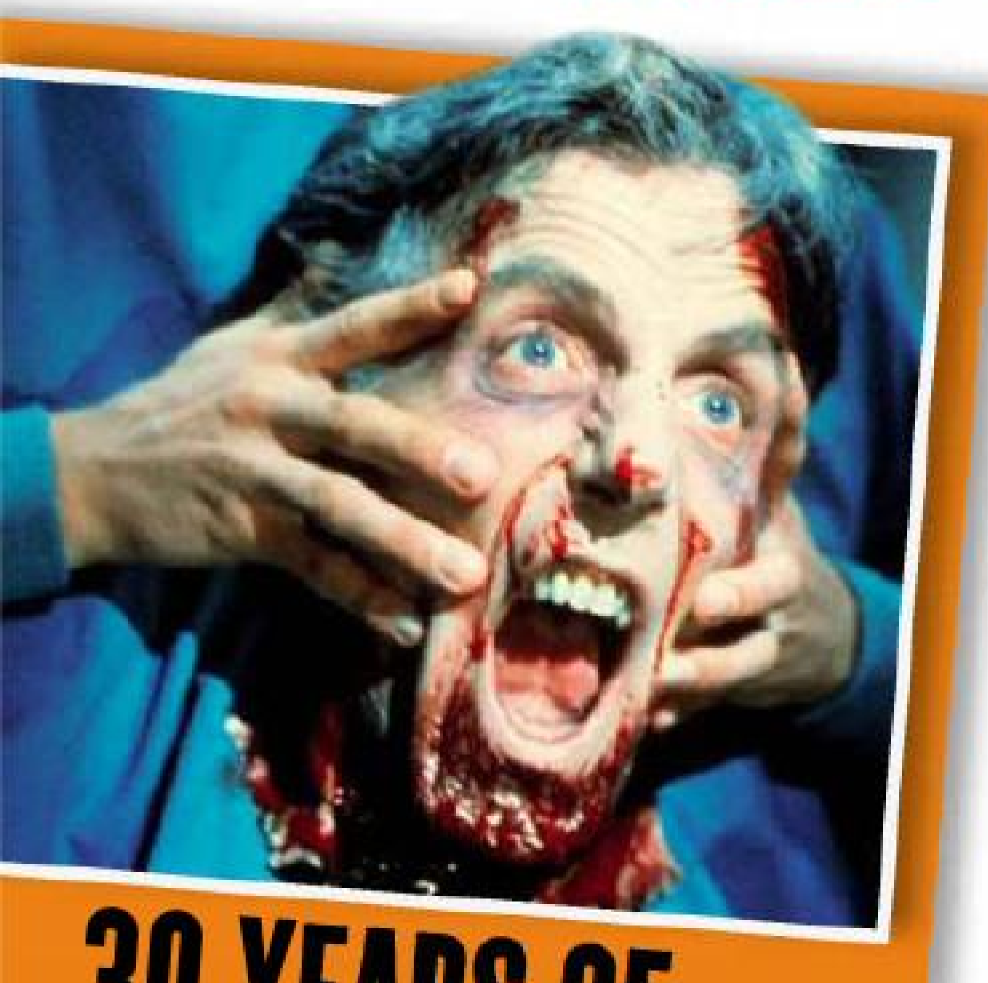

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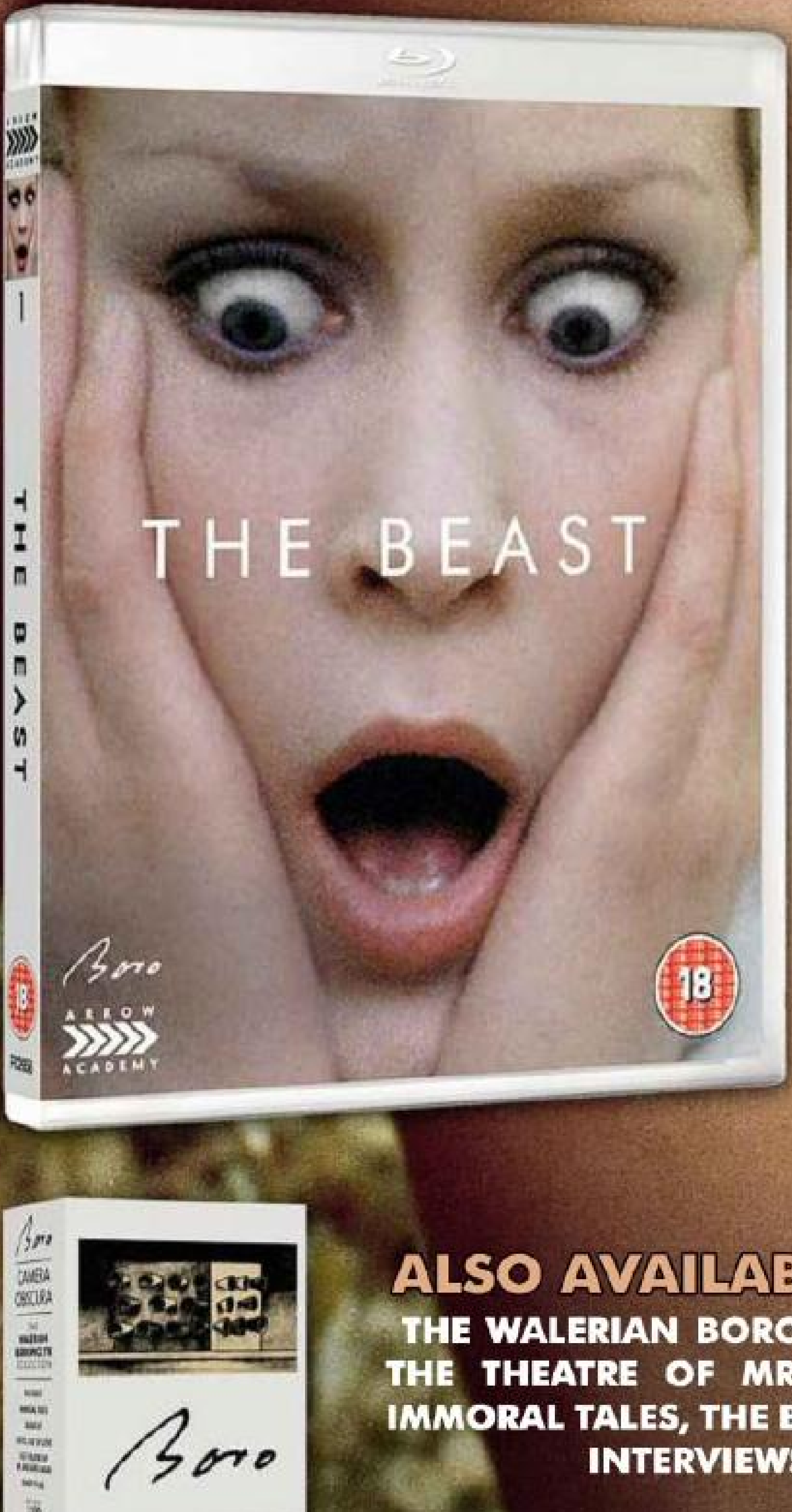

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"LA BÊTE IS THAT RARE ACHIEVEMENT, A TRULY EROTIC FILM"
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MARILYN MANSON
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ISSUE 217

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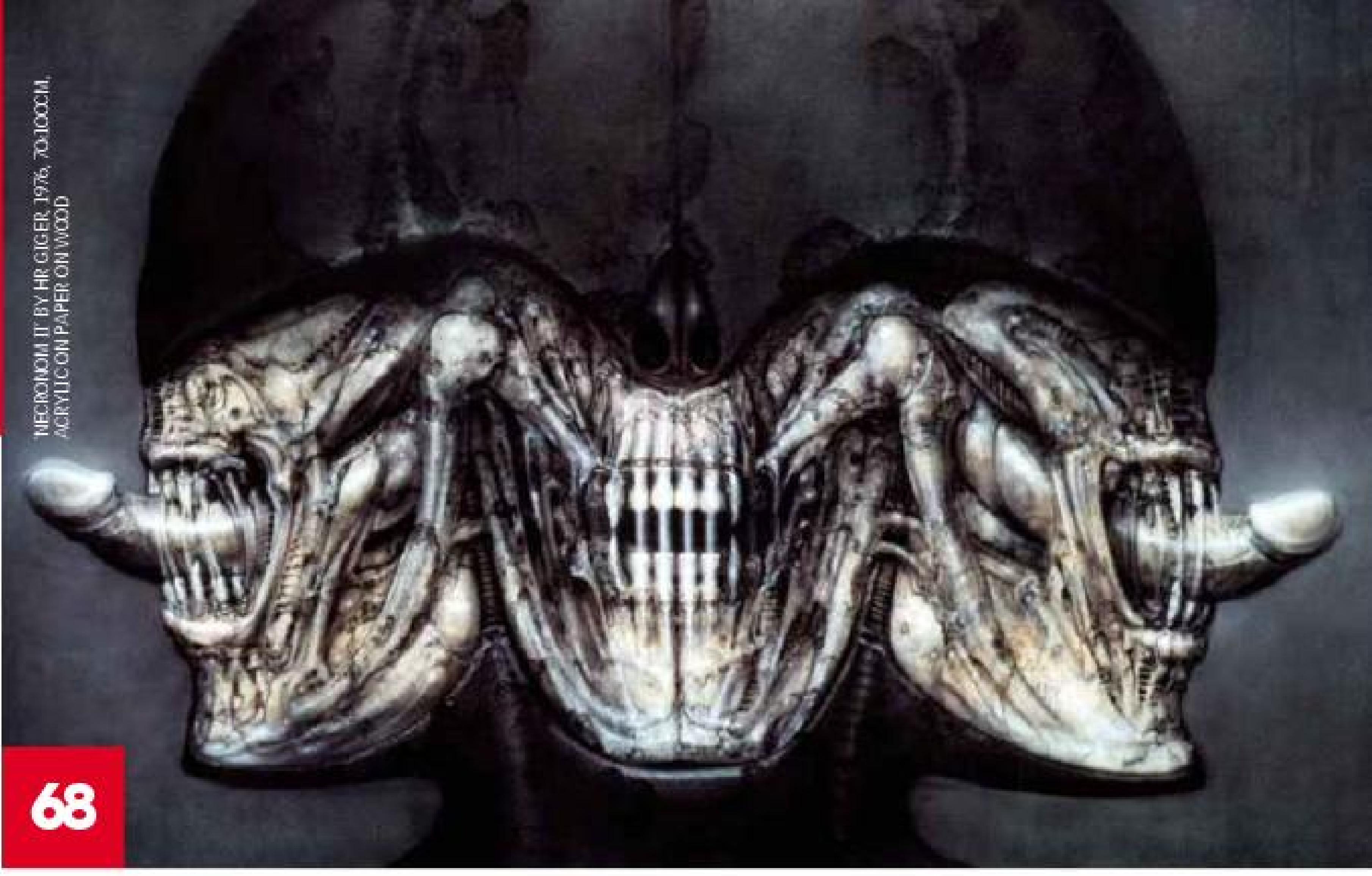
PICTURES: MARIEL CLAYTON (THEPHOTOGRAPHYMARIELCLAYTON.COM); CHRIS BELL (CHRISBELLPHOTOGALLERY.COM); STEAMGIRL.COM; PETER W CZERNICH; HR GIGER IMAGE COURTESY OF HRGIGERMUSEUM.COM; SECONDSIGHTFILMS.CO.UK


NECRONOM II BY HR GIGER, 1976, 70x100CM, ACRYLIC ON PAPER ON WOOD

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STICK 'EM UP!

YOUR FOUR PULL-OUT POSTERS BEGIN ON P47, INCLUDING...

KATO! MASUIMI MAX! HR GIGER! *RE-ANIMATOR*!

BIZARRE

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THE GRINDER

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PERVERTS I

Meet two masked Englishmen who aren't ashamed to strut their stuff on the streets while wearing shiny latex suits!

WORDS
AMANDA COBAN

PICTURES OF THE GIMP MAN OF ESSEX (THIS PAGE)
DEBORAH COSGROVE, IAMTHEDARK.CO.UK

PICTURES OF LATEXMODELBOY (OVERLEAF)
DREAM VISIONS

TO MOST MEMBERS OF THE VANILLA British public, the dead of night is the only time they'd expect to see weirdos coming out to play. But for some *Bizarre* readers, daring to be different during daylight hours is nothing to be ashamed of – and quite right, too!

Over the next few pages we're going to introduce you to The Gimp Man Of Essex and LatexModelBoy; two rubber lovers who don't need the cover of darkness to venture outside, and aren't afraid to bring squeaky daylight delights to a town near you...

THE GIMP MAN OF ESSEX

The Gimp Man Of Essex's aim is simple; he wants to make people smile and forget about the drudgery of everyday life as he poses for photos with his adoring public.

"I've always loved wearing tight, smooth latex for its feeling of enclosure," The Gimp Man Of Essex tells *Bizarre*. "As I started wearing rubber more often, I began to feel the urge to push my boundaries and go out in public. I started by wearing my latex leggings on bike rides, but I felt compelled to go further."

"My first public experience in full latex was in Colchester in June 2013," he continues. "I had a day off work, so I partly dressed in my shiny gear and headed to town. I completed my look in a car park by putting on my hood, cuffs and collar, then I took to the streets. It was terrifying, but I was buzzing because it was something I'd been burning to do. Walking those first few metres was nerve-wrecking, but it got easier – and I started lapping it up!"

"I keep my identity a secret as none of my friends, family or colleagues know I'm The Gimp Man Of Essex. He's a character that allows me to be outrageous and totally different from my everyday self. One person at work mentioned something about a 'weird guy in a gimp suit', but she said he was 'kind of cute, in a way'!"

> **"None of my friends, family or colleagues know I'm the gimp!"**

During his first public appearances, The Gimp Man Of Essex noticed that lots of people were taking his picture, and his photographer friend, Deborah Cosgrove, came up with a way to raise money for a worthy cause. Now, each time someone shares a photo of The Gimp Man Of Essex on his official Facebook page, he donates £1 to the British mental health charity, MIND.

So far The Gimp Man Of Essex has visited Colchester, Clacton-On-Sea, Frinton-On-Sea, Braintree and Basildon, but he was asked to leave Chelmsford town centre by a police community support officer after refusing to remove his hood. "I'd like to travel outside Essex one day, but at the moment there's →

Robert Dyas

SPOT THE GIMP!

Keep an eye out for The Gimp Man of Essex! For every photo of him that's shared on **Facebook.com/pages/The-Gimp-Man-of-Essex/388503221259960**, this generous rubber-lover donates a quid to Colchester MIND. You can also empty your pockets at **Justgiving.com/thegimpmanofessex**

N PUBLIC

still a lot of the county to explore," he says. "I'm often asked to visit different towns by the people I chat with, which is nice – it makes my walkabouts even more worthwhile."

LATEXMODELBOY

Our second rubber lover, LatexModelBoy, gets his kinky kicks from posing for photos in the great outdoors. And while this London-based fetish model is only in his early twenties, he's been keen on the shiny sheen of rubber on flesh since he was a teenager.

When searching an off-the-rail rubber outfit that fitted his figure, LatexModelBody discovered Fantastic Rubber's Big Boob Catsuit, which allows him to transform into the sexy rubber doll he's always wanted to be.

"Wearing latex outdoors is my favourite thing!" he says. "So far I've had photos taken in a car park, in a World War II pillbox, in a church graveyard and in a field full of cows. I find outdoor shoots more thrilling than in the confines of a studio – you never know who might catch you in action."

In an attempt to shoot more striking outdoor images, LatexModelBoy asked his photographer, Angelica from Dream Visions, to go on more outdoor trips with him. But, perhaps not surprisingly, Angelica is more nervous about outdoor shoots than LatexModelBoy himself...

"These shoots take a lot of courage," LatexModelBoy says. "There's always a risk of getting in trouble, but the results are worth it. Images of rural scenes with a strange, shiny figure sliding through them are very appealing."

"I shoot mostly around Horley in Surrey, but I plan to venture into central London and collaborate with more rubber lovers. I haven't had much interaction with the public while in rubber... yet. I'd like to walk down a busy high street. But I'll probably wait for the British weather to get better first!"

"Wearing latex outdoors is my favourite thing to do!"

Search for The Gimp Man of Essex on Facebook and follow him on Twitter (@GimpmanofEssex), and take a trip to Latexmodelboy.tumblr.com

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CHARACULA HAS RISEN FROM THE GRAVE!

B-movie diva from across The Pond enthrals us with her odd 'Mummy Dance' video (then tries to pull *Bizarre*'s art director…)

PICTURE: KIMBERLY METZ; HAIR AND MAKE-UP: MAKEUPMAFIA.NET

HERE AT *BIZARRE* TOWERS, YOU WON'T be surprised to hear that we spend most of our days watching strange videos. Even so, when we saw the music video for 'Mummy Dance' by mysterious rock chick Characula, we didn't know what to make of it. It was like Ed Wood doing Eurovision.

Multiple viewings and several blank expressions later, we decided that not only does 'Mummy Dance' deserve to be a viral hit, but Characula needs to be massive as well. So we tracked her down for a chat…

Who the freaking hell are you, Characula?
I'm a bewitching woman of inter-dimensional design who artistically combines glamour, lust and a patent disregard for life to travel through time and indulge in passionate love affairs with everything from B-movie monsters to debonair space aliens.

Glad to finally clear that one up. So what are your musical influences?
Classic rock bands of the 1970s and 80s. And Benedictine monks! There's nothing sexier than screaming electric guitars and chanting men wearing nothing but robes.

'Mummy Dance' has had 10,000+ views on YouTube, but only one comment – "WTF! This is awful!" – to which you replied, "Thank you for watching. I'm glad you enjoyed it." In reality, is the writer of this comment now scrubbing your toilets with his fingers, and being dangled over snake pits?
Chaining men up in pits full of snakes and having them scrub toilets is reserved for people I actually *like*. By contrast, the darkest corner of hell is the place for those with no musical taste, and is where said 'gentleman' will end up. He'll never again hear a Characula performance or listen to another enchanting Characula song. There's no more damning punishment than that.

You describe yourself as a "mistress of male seduction". So how would you go about seducing *Bizarre*'s art director, Dave Kelsall? He's tall, likes 1980s videogames, watches *Coronation Street* religiously, and wears Batman underwear…
That's a fantasy come to life! First I'd turn on the Bat-Signal to lure him in. Once Dave appears (they always do), I'd let nature take its course in the form of an army of fire ants to get him all hot and bothered. I'd entice him with my beauty, steal his heart and place it in a jar above my mantle. After a night of passion, I'd sit by the phone and wait for him to call. Hopefully there would be a second date. He sounds like a blast!

His wife will be thrilled. When can we expect to see your album?
My album is full of over-the-top rock songs detailing spectacular conquests and my innermost thoughts. It's being produced by Dito Godwin (Mötley Crüe, No Doubt) – under threat of death, so you can be assured he'll do an excellent job. A release is scheduled for the end of the year, after I've introduced myself to the public through touring.

See 'Mummy Dance' in the 'Weird Videos' section at Bizarremag.com. For more on Characula, visit Characula.com, Facebook.com/Characula?fref=ts and Twitter.com/characula

ATTACK OF THE UNDEAD TEDS!

Meet the messed-up teddy bears from your darkest nightmares!

FROM THE SICK AND TWISTED MIND of illustrator Phillip Blackman, UndeadTeds are handmade bundles of blood, guts and gore that are the perfect present for any horror fanatic!

Bizarre caught up with Blackman to find out how the concept for these brain-munching, intestine-chewing, tongue-dangling toys first came about...

"A few years ago my wife and I were discussing gift ideas for a friend's new baby, and she suggested a teddy bear," he says. "At the time she had a terrible cold, and with her congested sinuses she said 'deddy bear'. I began imagining horrible little teddies hiding under the bed, which come out at night to feast on the brains of the sleeping.

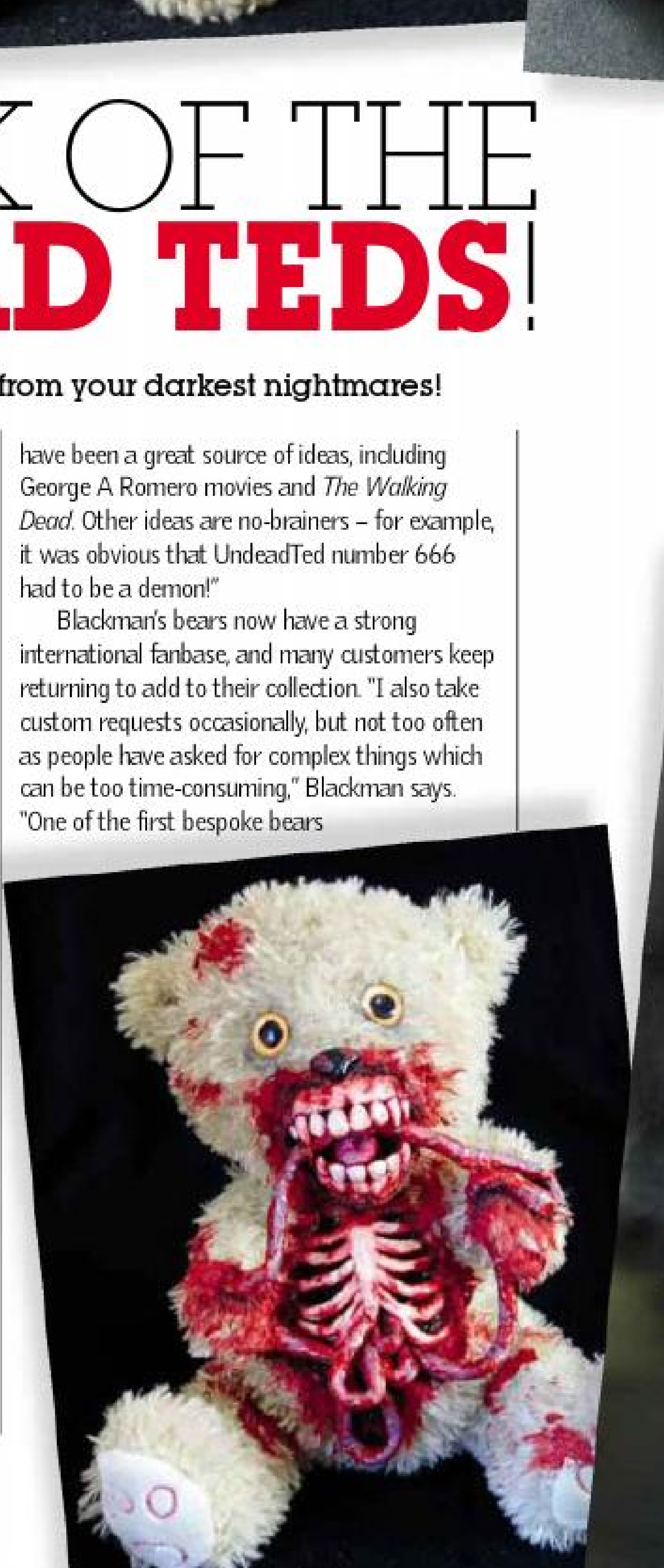
"In late 2011 I made two 'deddy bears' and showed them off on Twitter. Since then, I've sold over 750 UndeadTeds to fans all over the world!"

Unlike mass-produced toys, no two UndeadTeds are the same; Blackman hand sculpts every bone, skull, tooth and organ to fit the bear it's designed for, which means a batch of 10 teds can take around 60 hours to create. And once he's decided a bear's fate, Phillip can pimp a formally normal teddy to look utterly disgusting.

"I've always had an interest in the macabre and the strange," he says. "Films and television have been a great source of ideas, including George A Romero movies and *The Walking Dead*. Other ideas are no-brainers – for example, it was obvious that UndeadTed number 666 had to be a demon!"

Blackman's bears now have a strong international fanbase, and many customers keep returning to add to their collection. "I also take custom requests occasionally, but not too often as people have asked for complex things which can be too time-consuming," Blackman says. "One of the first bespoke bears I created was for a man who wanted an UndeadTed in a wedding dress as a gift for his girlfriend. He was thrilled when I found a bear wearing a replica of Kate Middleton's wedding gown! More recently, someone asked for a pair of UndeadTeds with their chests torn open and holding each other's hearts as a gift for Valentine's Day. Doing what I do has got to be one of the strangest ways to make a living!"

Adopt an UndeadTed directly from Undeadteds.com. Each ted is tagged with a unique ID number, so you can be confident you've got the real thing!



PICTURE: LEGEND-PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

PICTURE: ANNABEL DE VETTEN, CONJURER'S KITCHEN

ABERNETHY
BISCUITS

PICTURE: MICHELLE MARIE FORREST-BECKETT, FAIRGROUND FABLES

BLACK MARKET OF TERROR

Former forensics man, responsible for mummified fairy hoax, launches dark crafts market for subversive artists…

HE'S SOLD HIS WORK TO GUILLERMO del Toro and Reece Shearsmith, fooled the world with his mummified fairy hoax, and as a former soldier and forensic consultant claims to have seen more "real gore than any sane person would care to see".

Now celebrated 'artist of the macabre' Dan Baines has launched Pyewackett & Pecke (Pyewackettandpecke.com), an alternative online crafts market which he dubs the "parasitic twin" of vintage / arts marketplace Etsy.

Launched in April 2014, Baines says Pyewackett & Pecke is dedicated to providing the best alternative artists with a platform to showcase their dark talents and products. So far the site has featured everything from mummified baby heads and haunted dolls to chocolate conjoined fetus skulls created by Annabel De Vetten.

"The reproduction Victorian wax casts of deformities and death masks are most popular," reveals Baines. "These range from infant limbs with bits missing to death masks of syphilis victims. They're great for presents."

A master of the macabre himself, Baines has sculpted "a menagerie of Gothic terror" in his Kent studio, and has had work exhibited in Guillermo del Toro's Bleak House, which the director built to house his collection of curios.

But even though his creations are pure fantasy, Baines says that his exposure to real-life horrors while working in forensics and the British Armed Forces had the greatest impact on his work.

"I worked in video and audio forensics so I've seen and heard it all," he reveals, grimly. "Beheadings, rape, murder and other extreme atrocities are permanently tattooed on my brain. The way I exorcise those demons is through my art. But, as you might expect, I'm not a huge fan of torture porn. My film tastes are more Gothic and brooding."

Baines' most notorious work to date was his elaborate April Fools' hoax in 2007, where he claimed to have discovered the skeleton of a real-life fairy, which was found by a chap walking his dog in Duffield, Derbyshire.

"It was dubbed one of the greatest hoaxes of all time and is still going viral today," beams Baines. "I let the hoax run for one week, then revealed it was just a plastic skeleton wrapped in papier-mâché made from a toilet roll! Then the death threats and abuse started to roll in – it seemed more people believe in fairies than I first thought, and a large percentage of them were psychopaths bent on spilling my blood!"

Stephen Daultrey

Head to Pyewackettandpecke.com to find out more

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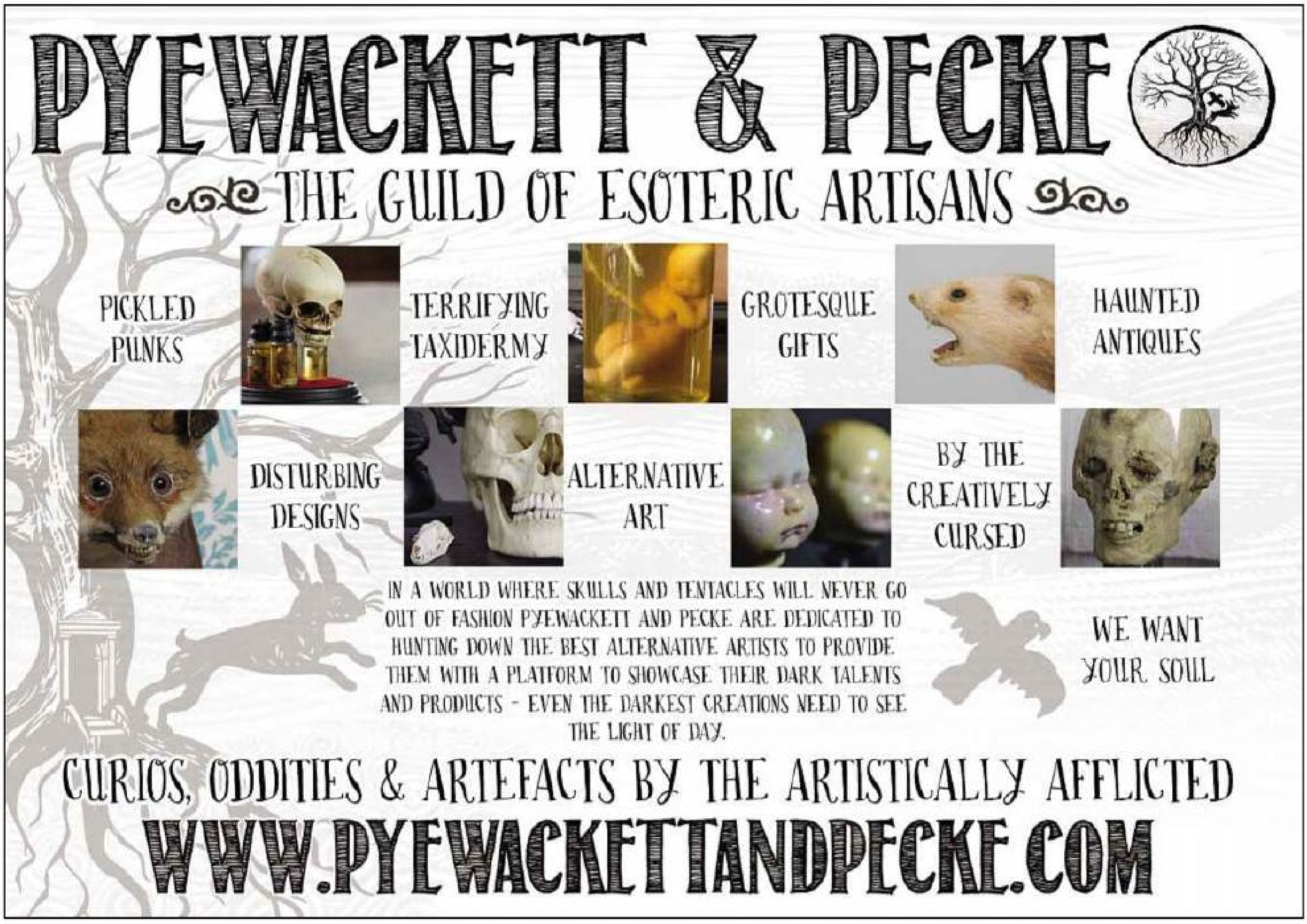

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IN A WORLD WHERE SKULLS AND TENTACLES WILL NEVER GO OUT OF FASHION PYEWACKETT AND PECKE ARE DEDICATED TO HUNTING DOWN THE BEST ALTERNATIVE ARTISTS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A PLATFORM TO SHOWCASE THEIR DARK TALENTS AND PRODUCTS - EVEN THE DARKEST CREATIONS NEED TO SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.

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GOTH & GLITTER!

Ultra Vixen **Dixiedread1** wants a threesome with Marilyn Manson and Rob Zombie! **p30**

PluS!

Junk Mail
Your letters and photos!

Your Body Art
Your ink'n'iron!

Readers' Art
Your deranged doodles!

PICTURE: JAMES DALY – JD PHOTOGRAPHY

RANT AT US AND SEND US SHIT!

Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot!
Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!

BIZARRE Junk mail

POSTAL ADDRESS
JUNK MAIL, BIZARRE,
PO BOX 59844, LONDON SW14 9BH

EDITED BY MANDATRON
Mandatron@blackthorncommunications.com

SEND US YOUR STUFF!

BIZARRE SAVAGE HEARTS

Dumpstar!

WELL DONE! YOU WIN NOTHING!

SUCCESS WITH SAVAGE HEARTS

About two years ago I joined *Bizarre*'s alternative dating website Savagehearts.co.uk. I was in a relationship at the time, but I signed up to make new friends.

Not long after joining Savage Hearts I stumbled across a chap called Ren, and we started chatting about music. We didn't talk that much, but I stayed in touch with him.

In February this year I became single, so I jumped back on Savage Hearts and created another profile with a view to meeting someone new. I talked to a couple of people, but I wasn't really interested in them. But then, out of the blue, Ren sent me a virtual 'wink'! We began chatting, and he asked what had happened my relationship. I explained that I'd recently become single, and he asked me out on a date straight away!

We arranged to meet the following Saturday in a metal pub in Manchester. I got there a bit early and was really nervous, but Ren had been messaging me all week and so I felt comfortable meeting him.

As soon as Ren walked in, I just knew he was for me! He was exactly 'my type' of man, and I couldn't believe my luck! We gave each other a big cuddle and got some drinks in. The conversation (and the drinks!) flowed easily, and it became clear that Ren was interested in me as well.

The spark between us was absolutely electric! Needless to say, after the first kiss we didn't let each other go for hours. It was probably sickening for everyone else in the pub, but we didn't care!

At the end of the evening we arranged to meet again, and I've been staying at his house every weekend since. We've both declared our love for each other and have even joked about marriage and kids!

I'm absolutely wild about Ren, and he feels the same way about me. I'd like to say a huge thank you to *Bizarre* and Savage Hearts for helping me find him!

Kim Ormston, via email

Mandatron says: We're thrilled to hear you've found each other through the power of Savagehearts.co.uk. It's free and easy to sign up, and you'll find yourself chatting to alternative folk in your area in no time!

SKULL FOR SALE

I'm the owner of a real human skull that I'm now hoping to sell (below).

I bought it from a curiosity shop which had three other skulls, and many other human bones including femurs and spines, and the guy who runs it says they were all found in a mass grave in Holland (very *Poltergeist*!)

The bones in the shop had been dated at around 400-500 years old, which makes them legal to sell. Many of the bones had trauma marks –including some skull fragments with holes – and some were charred. No one knows exactly what mass grave was used for – but given the year and the way the bones were buried, my guess is that it was a plague pit!

The skull is in great condition considering its age. As you can see, the right side of the skull has a piece missing, but the eye sockets and nose are intact, making it an interesting yet macabre talking point.

I'm looking for offers around £300. Contact me at Facebook.com/jim.hurst.39 if you're interested.

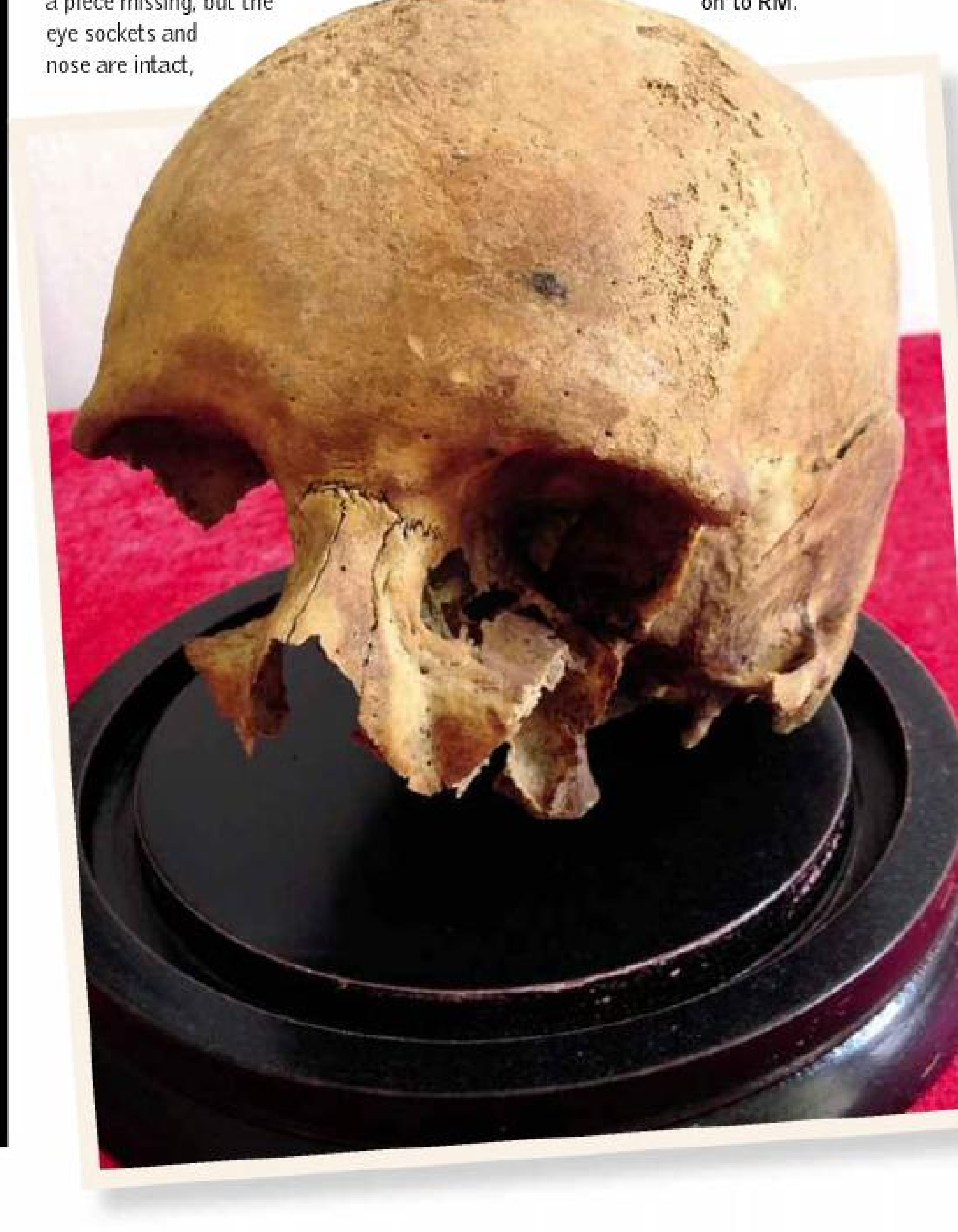
Jim Hurst, via Facebook

PERVY PLANTS

I was hoping you or your readers might be able to help me. Back in 2001 or 2000 *Bizarre* ran a feature about strange places to visit, which included a topiary garden of ill repute (in England, I believe) where the hedge sculptures were in the form of genitalia, people having sex etc. Does anyone have any idea about what I'm talking about?

RM, via Facebook

Mandatron says: We can't find any record of this – sorry! But if any readers know, please drop us a line and we'll pass the info on to RM.



PICTURE: JUAN MANUEL LUCAS GAROFALO PH

MASUIMI REX

Imagine my delight when, through some weird quirk of fate, my copy of *Bizarre 214* featured Masuimi Max's photoshoot misprinted in an interesting way (above). It looks like her mortician friend had more in mind! I like the effect. Thanks for offering me a replacement copy, but I think I'll keep this one!

Dave, Torquay

MANY SPANKS!

I'm Mistress Reina Dsade (right), and I'm a dominatrix and *Bizarre* fan from Argentina. Your magazine is one of my favourites. I've been interested in BDSM culture since I was 15-years-old, and now I'm 26 I am one of the best known dommes in my area. It would be a pleasure to be featured in *Bizarre*!

Mistress Reina Dsade, via Facebook

BEAR LOVES *BIZARRE*

Here's a picture of my cat, Bear, lounging with my copy of *Bizarre*. She loves your magazine, and I have to be quick and get my hands on it first every month when it's delivered through my door, otherwise I have to wait while Bear reads it! She's also partial to *Game Of Thrones* books, squeezing into small spaces, and staring dreamily at the *Bizarre* posters I have on my walls. I know Bear would love to see herself featured in the pages of *Bizarre*, and find out if any other cats have the same reading habits as her!

Sophie Preston, Reading

WELCOME TO THE ASYLUM

I'm an amateur photographer who reads your magazine every month. Recently I staged a photoshoot with my girlfriend and a few mates at an asylum in Wales. Here's a sample I think you might enjoy (below, right) – I'd love to see it in your magazine!

Adam Flatt, via email

ANY GIRLFRIDAY

I started my blog at Anygirlfriday.com to talk about sex and feminism. I look at other issues such as reproductive freedom, gender construction and body confidence, but I mostly focus on female pleasure and the fact that women aren't expected to be sexual or interested in seeking gratification.

I think it's wrong that we leave the good stuff to men, and that women are often too afraid to ask for what they want from sex.

I'm a feminist lover of beards and tattoos. I'm pro-choice, pro-love, pro-French bulldogs... and that pretty much sums me up.

If your readers have any suggestions for blog posts I haven't covered yet, feel free to let me know – don't be shy! My grandma read a post I wrote about female masturbation, so I have no shame. I love *Bizarre* magazine; it's like my spirit animal.

Em (@anygirlfriday), via Twitter

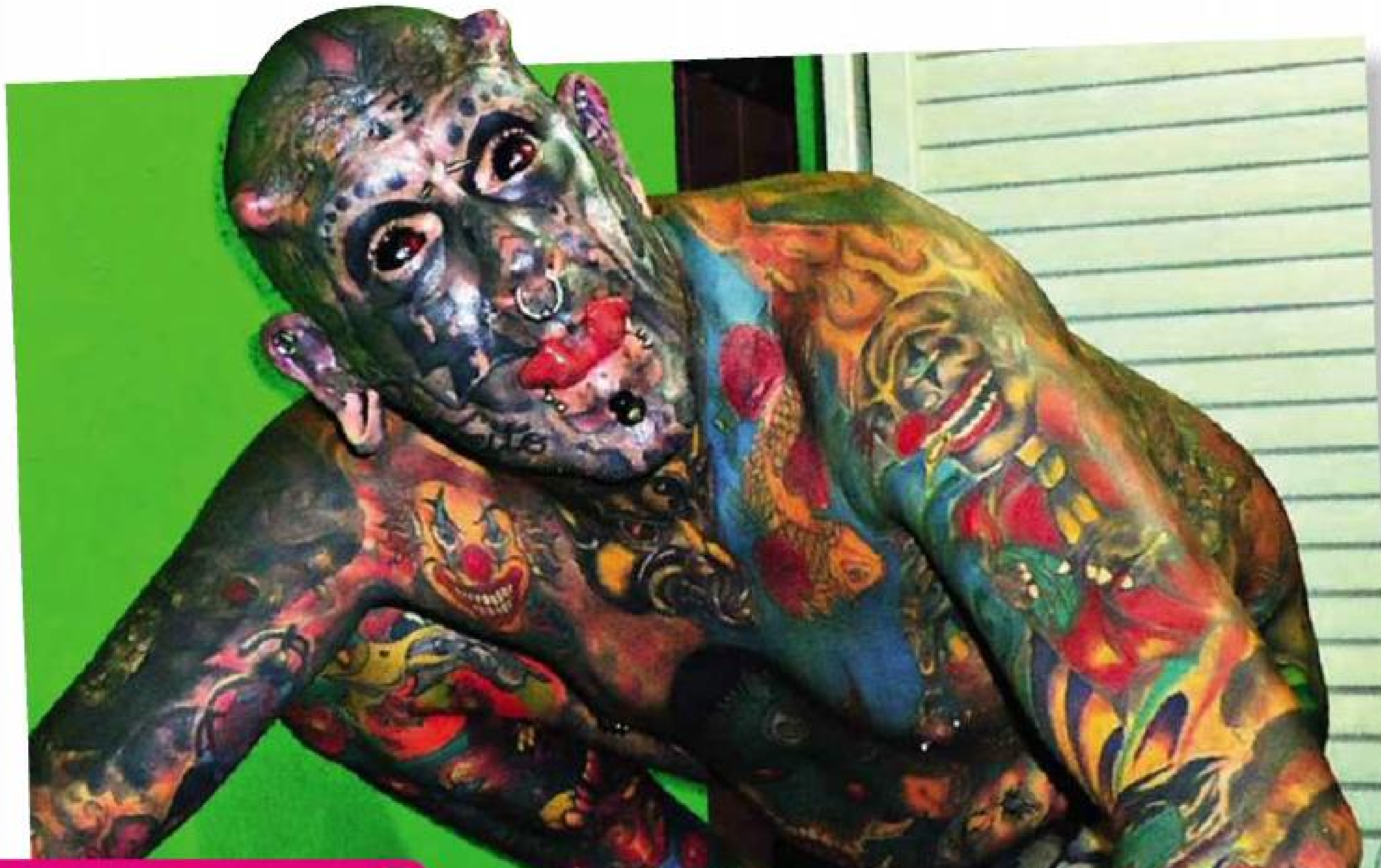
Mandatron says: What are you waiting for, *Bizarre* fiends? Drop Em a line and let her know what you'd like to read about on her blog.

PICTURE (BELOW): PIXEL HATE STUDIOS

BODY ART OF BRAZIL

I'm Brazilian and the most tattooed man in my territory (right)! Find me at Facebook.com/Caveiratatoo

Fernando Franco De Oliveira, via Facebook



FRESH MEAT

I bought your magazine for the first time recently to read the article about Alt-Fest in *Bizarre 214*. I'm so sorry that I didn't know about your magazine before – I love it! There are so many interesting things to read that I'd never find in other magazines. I'm definitely going to buy *Bizarre* again next month, and I'm thinking about subscribing. Thanks for being so awesome!

Monta Monta, via Facebook

WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys… and in the weirdest places!

WORKING HARD FIDDLING WITH HIS 'TOOL', YA MEAN!

Here's a devoted fan reading his copy of *Bizarre 210* in Afghanistan. Matthew Rogerson is currently serving in the forces, working hard to fix and maintain trucks as part of a Light Aid Detachment. We salute you, Matthew!

DEAD GOOD MAKE-UP

Check out these graphic images my husband, Nick, and my sister-in-gore, Jenny from Jacksons Murderous Make-Up, created (right). Most people think we're twisted because of what we do, but we see it as unique creative art!

This concept came about after Jenny and I brainstormed ideas. We started talking about a Y-cut (often used in autopsies, where a large Y-shaped incision is made from the top of each shoulder running down the front of the chest, meeting at the lower point of the sternum), but that seemed a little boring by itself. With our deep, dark imaginations, we ended up with what you see! We were going to have the 'victim' washed up on a beach, but we were worried about dog walkers because it looks so real! So we decided to use our allotment instead.

Nick thinks our ideas are "far out", but he's always happy to capture our

fun! Our family and friends always expect us to explore taboo subjects, but when we show them a new shoot they cringe, cover their faces and gag – but Jen and I take that as a compliment! Some people say we're sick... and we say "thank you!" We have some new amazing gore themes coming up – keep an eye on my UltraVixens.net profile for updates.

Ultra Vixen Neen_UK, via email

BIZARRE'S Ultra Vixens

PICTURES: NICK HUNTER; SPECIAL FX: JACKSONS MURDEROUS MAKE UP

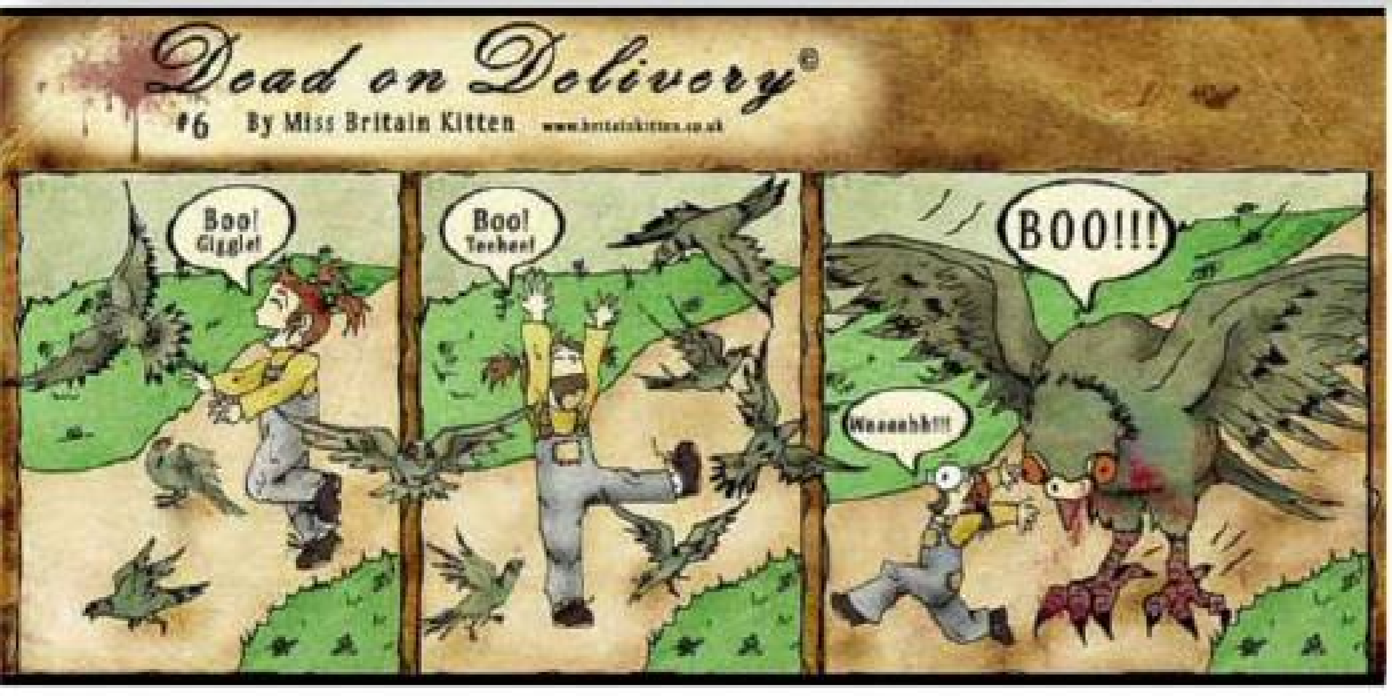

Dead on Delivery©
#6 By Miss Britain Kitten
Boo! Giggle!
Boo! Teehee!
BOO!!!
Waaahhh!!!

PHOTO ASSAULT

**You lot showing off on our community page...
Visit us at Your-bizarre.tumblr.com**

Tiff Aquino says: "Over 100 facial piercings between us – married and modified!"

Kha sent us this photo of his Sak Yant tattoo

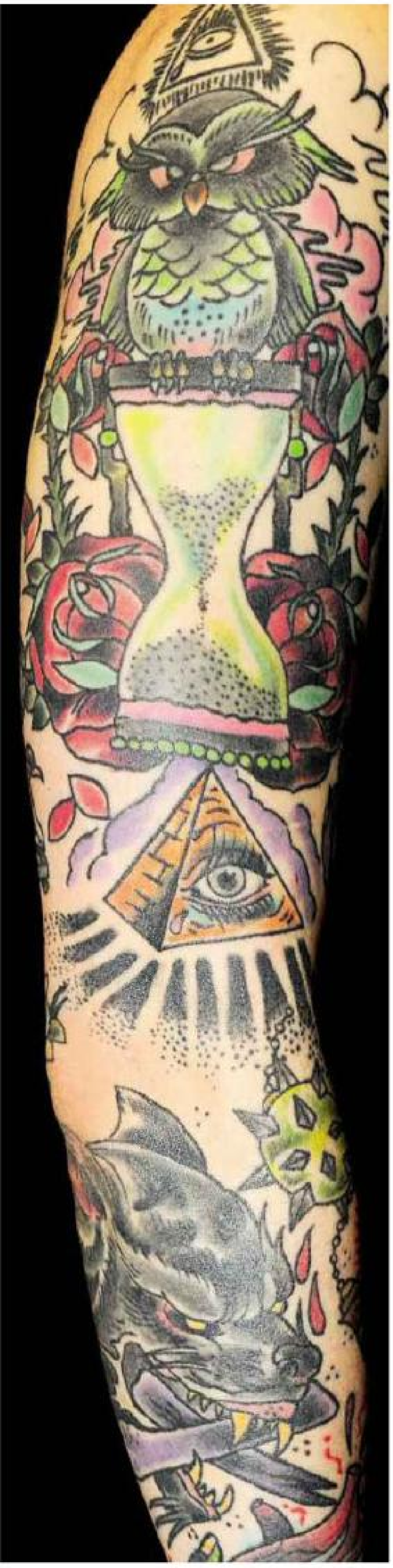
Glossy-couple love sharing their saucy, shiny pictures!

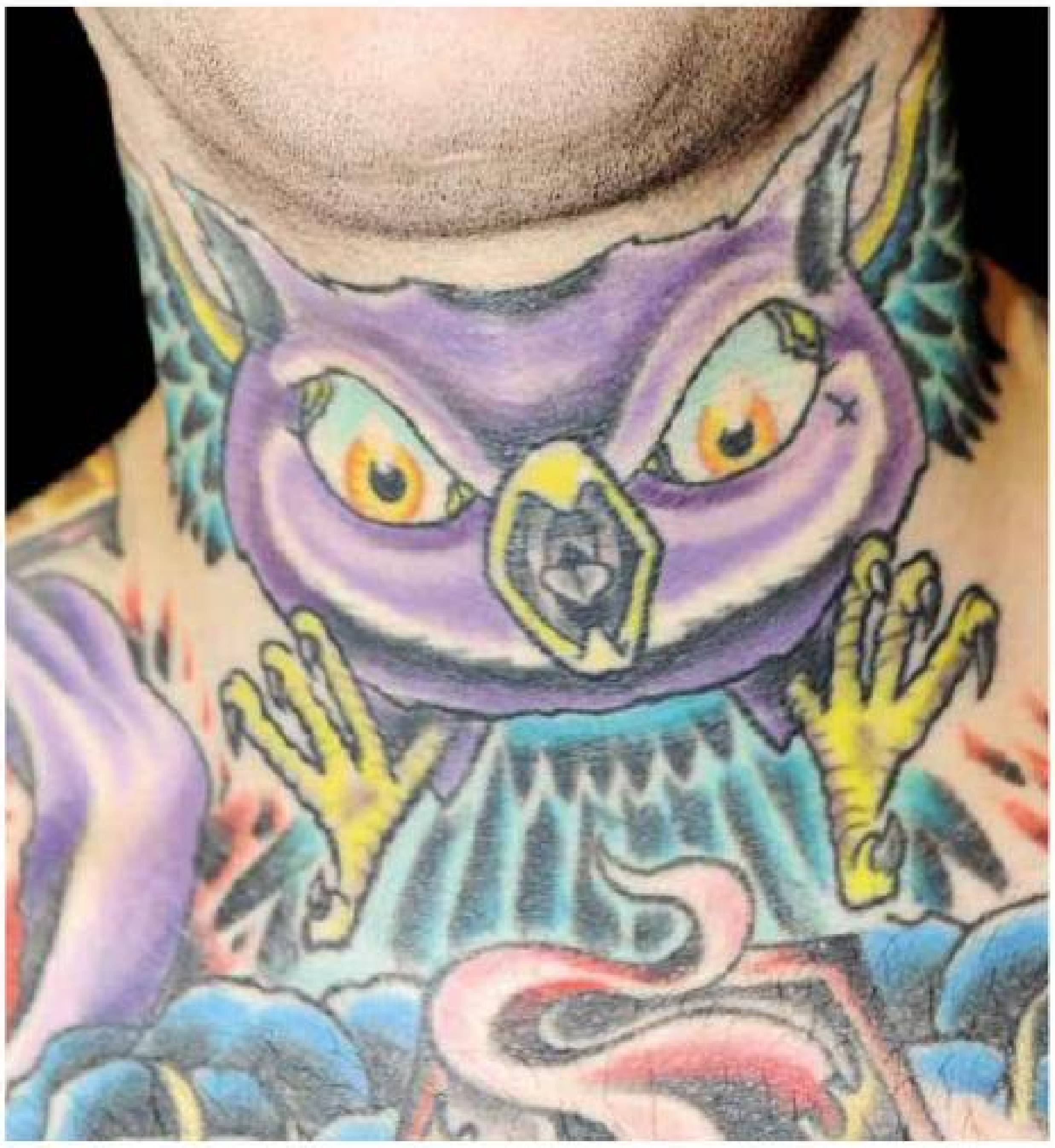
Sian says: "Jonesy wanted some of Vix's mouth worms." You're weird. We like that!

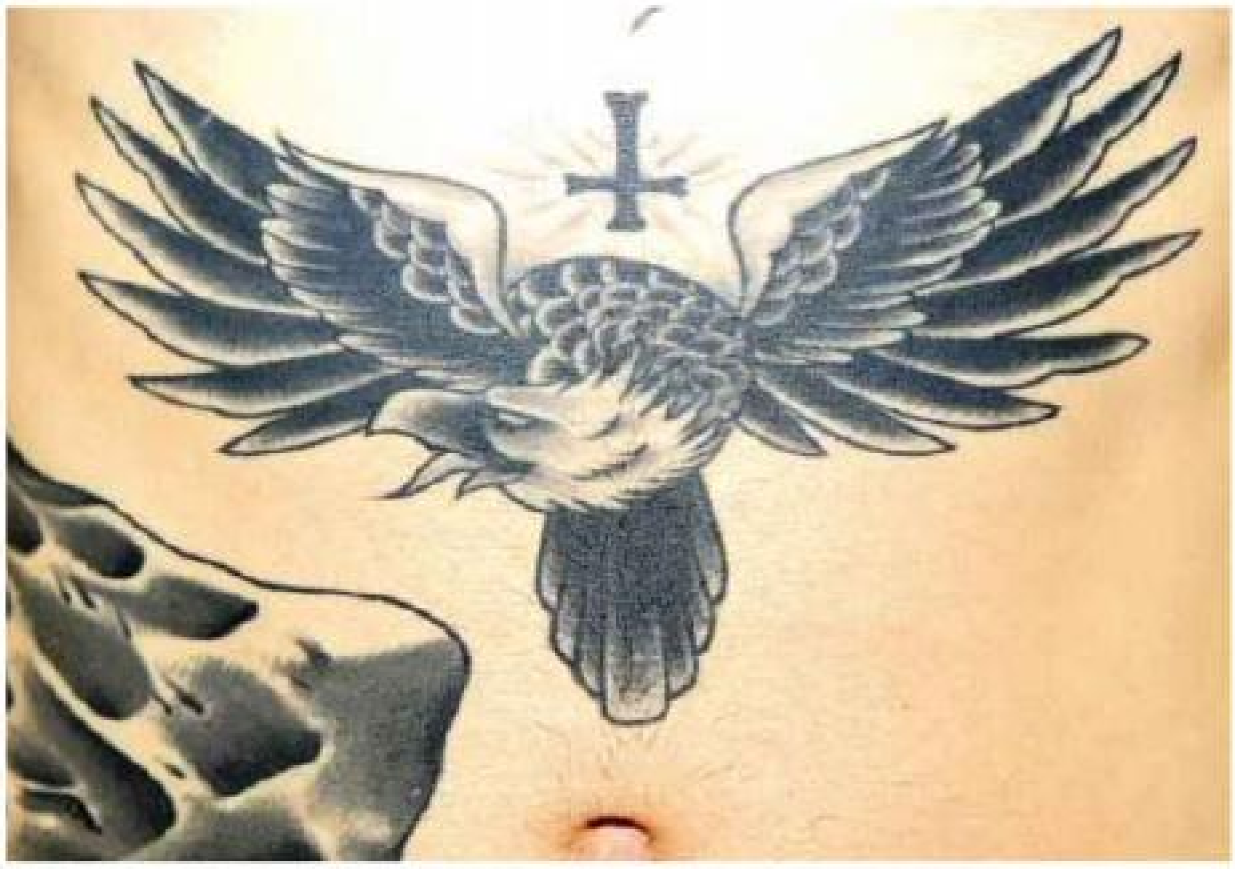
YOUR Body Art

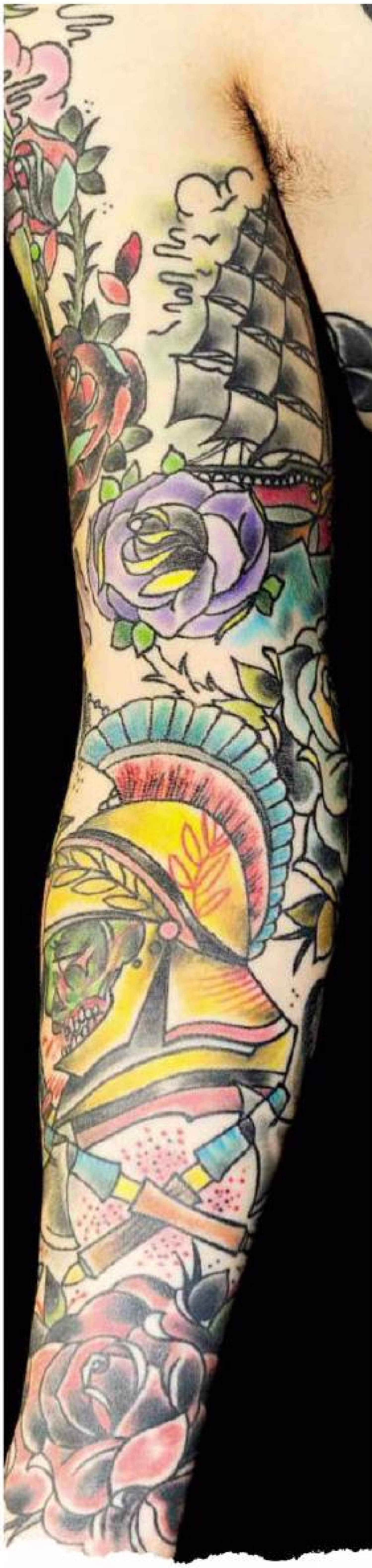
READER TATTS AND BODY MODS

PICTURES **ESTER SEGARRA**

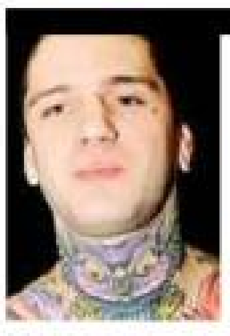








JACK DELANY
STEVENAGE

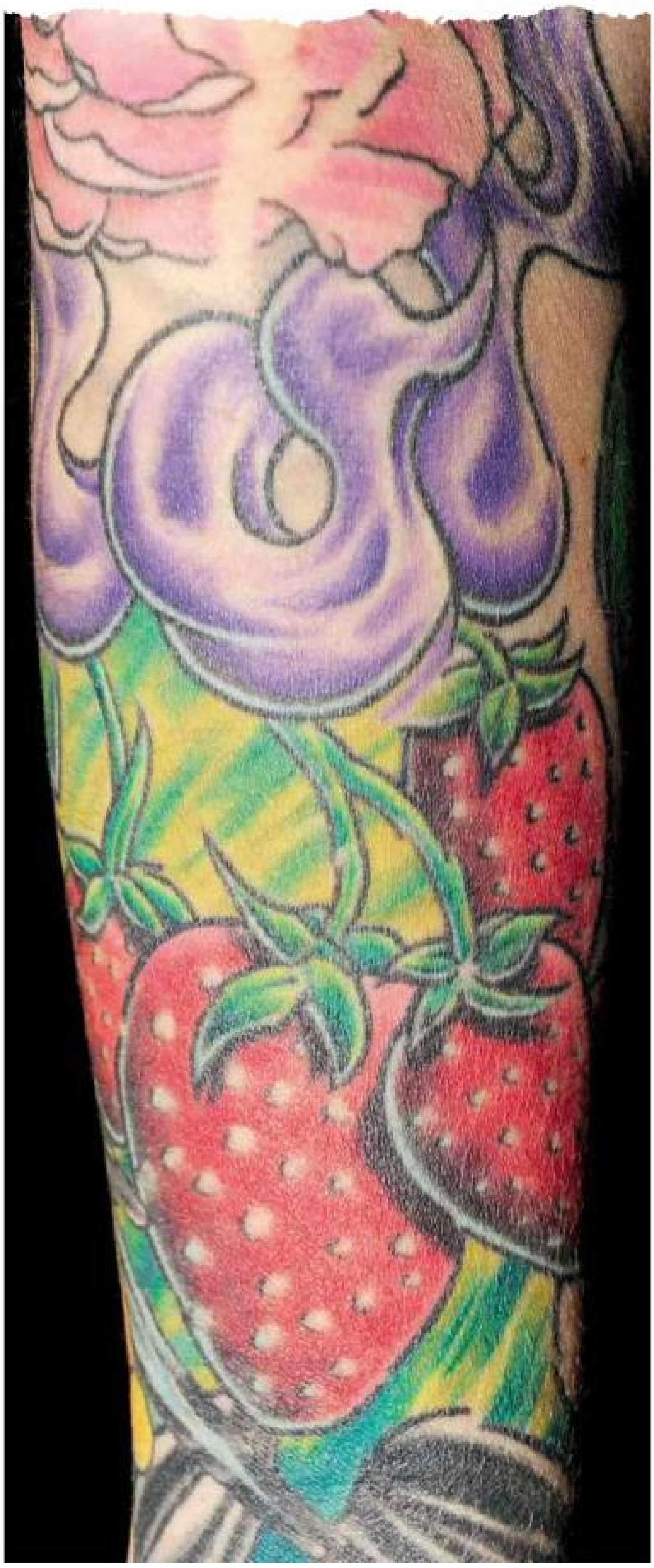


ARTISTS
Tiny Miss Becca at Jayne Doe, Essex (sleeve); Michael Harris at Church Yard Tattoo Studio, Hitchin (eagle).

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE YOUR INK?
I normally end up getting a new tattoo when I discover an artist's work I particularly like. I never have a lot to do with the fine details of the design – I just tell the artist roughly what I want, then I give them complete freedom to do what they like because I appreciate their style.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
I usually get a positive response – some people are very interested in my ink and want to have a closer look. People don't normally want to sit next to me on the train, which is nice!

GOT ANY MORE INK PLANNED?
I've had some more designs added to face and neck, and there will definitely be more to come!



CLAIRE GABLE ◄►
NOTTINGHAM

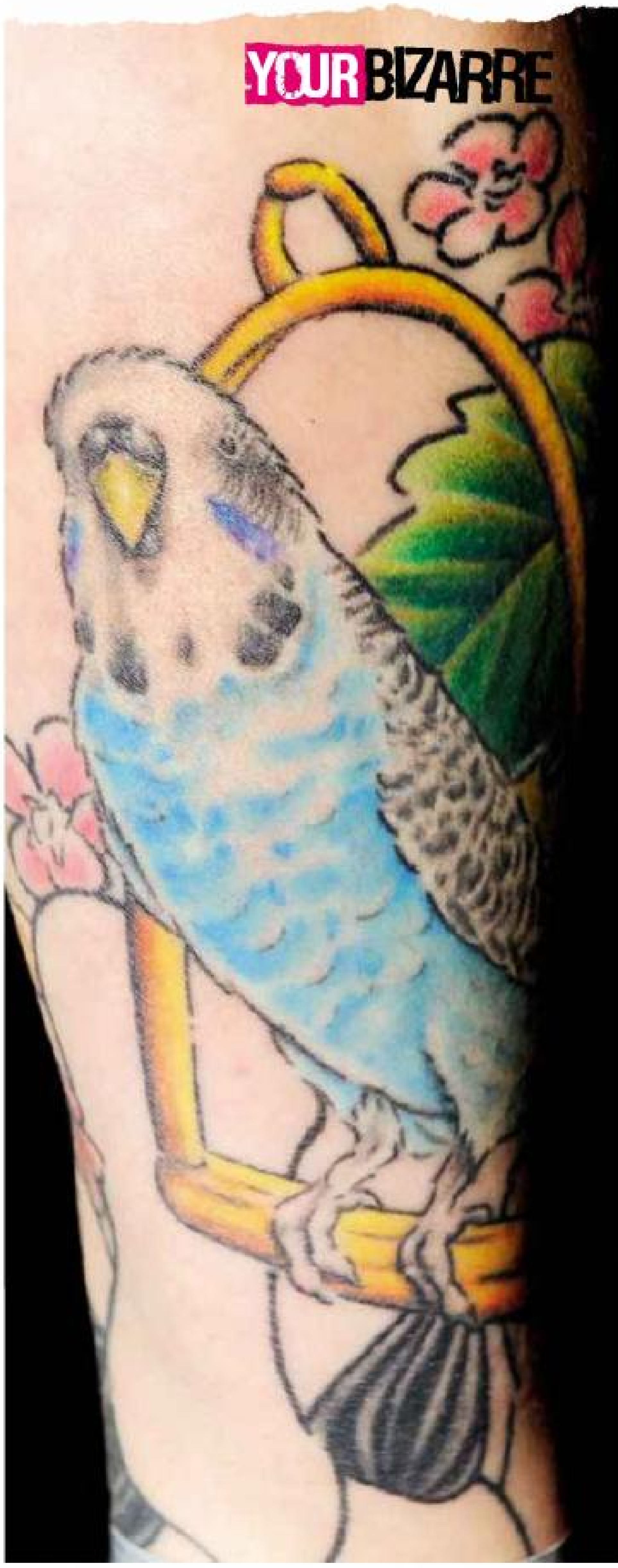
ARTIST Gray Silva at Rampant Inks, Nottingham.

WHAT IS IT?
Colourful fruit and birds on my arm.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I love bright colours, so Gray's style suits my tastes. The tattoo on the right is my budgie, John, and I also have a tattoo of my parrot called Milo. I have some sunflower seeds as well as the strawberries, so the designs fit together.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
People tend to say positive things. When I started working in the studio at Rampant Inks, my parents said, "You're not going to get any more tattoos, are you?" The trouble is, I can't stop!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I'm sure I'll get plenty more tattoos – I still have space to fill.



LAURA ATKINSON ▼
BRISTOL

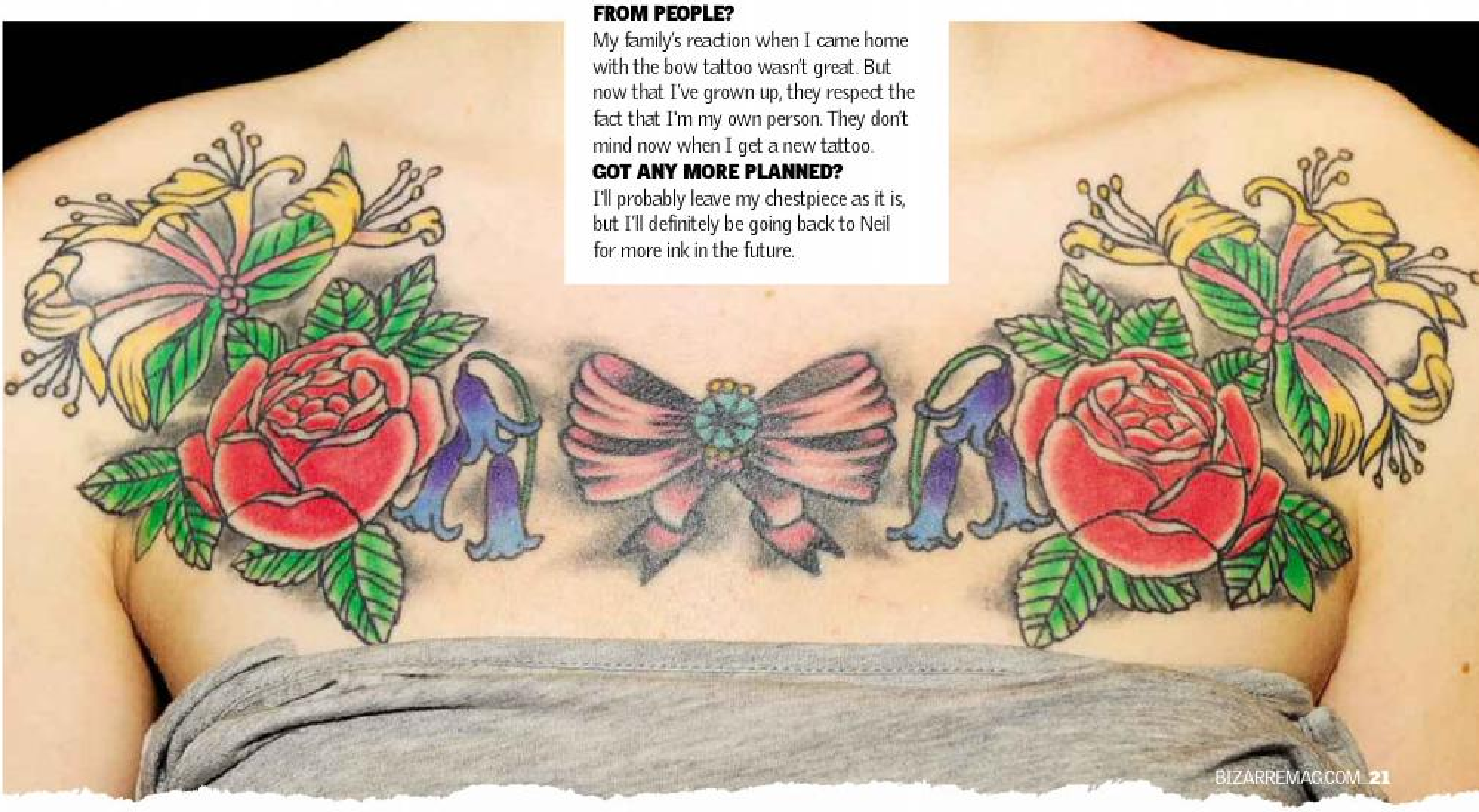
ARTIST
Neil Pengilley at Dust N' Bones, Plymouth.

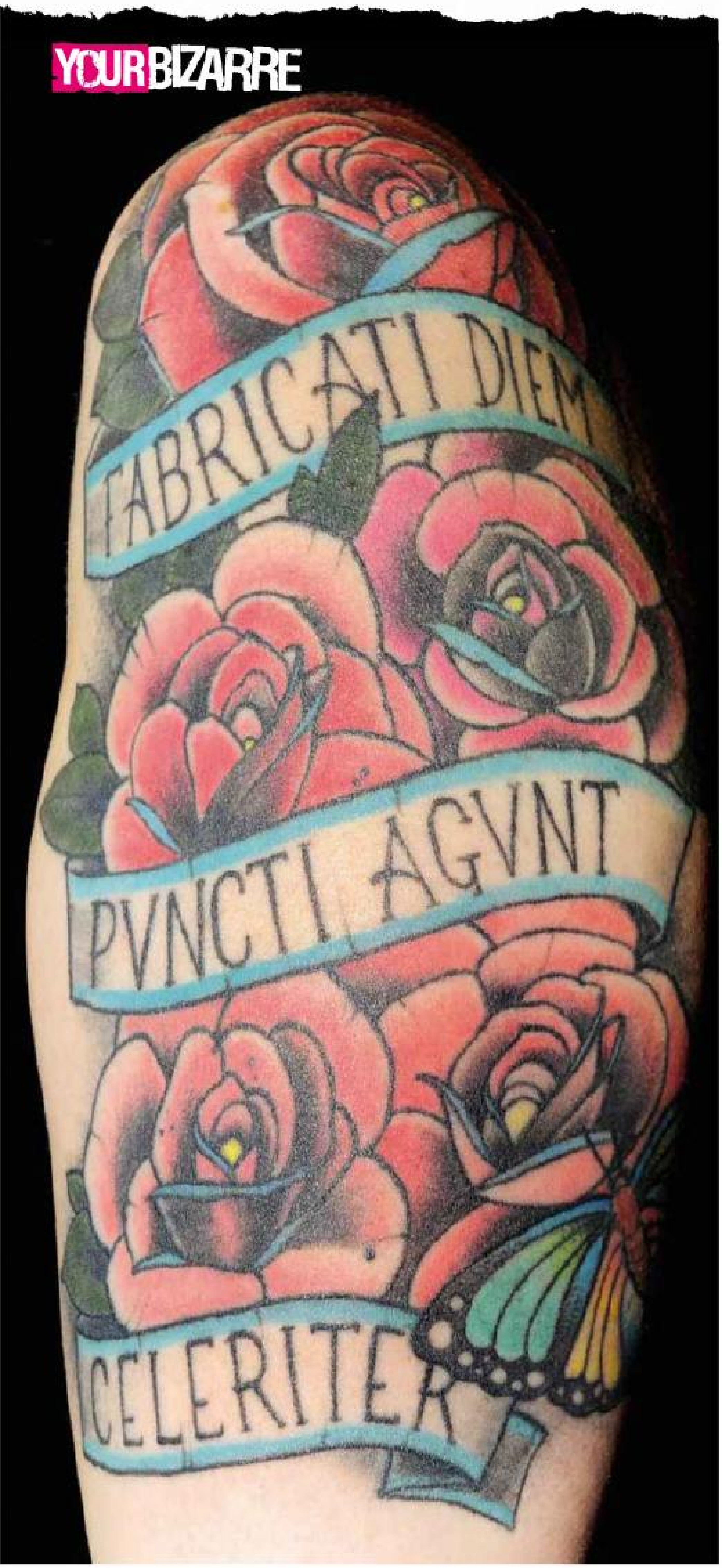
WHAT IS IT?
A flowery chestpiece with a bow.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
The bow was my first tattoo, which was done when I was 18 by an artist whose name I can't remember. After discovering Neil's work I decided to have him carry on with my chestpiece because I like his work.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
My family's reaction when I came home with the bow tattoo wasn't great. But now that I've grown up, they respect the fact that I'm my own person. They don't mind now when I get a new tattoo.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I'll probably leave my chestpiece as it is, but I'll definitely be going back to Neil for more ink in the future.





CHARLIE PURNELL
BASINGSTOKE

ARTIST Alex Simpson at Bespoke Tattoos, Guildford.

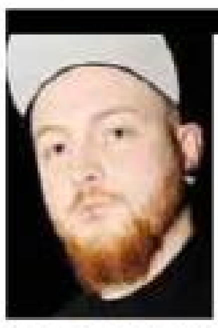
WHAT IS IT?
A Terry Pratchett themed half-sleeve with Dog Latin script from his book, *Men At Arms*. It translates as, "Make the day, the moments pass quickly."

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
Normally I have to explain what it means – I haven't had any other Terry Pratchett fans recognise it yet.

WHAT DO FAMILY MEMBERS THINK ABOUT YOUR TATTOOS?
My dad wasn't a fan of my tattoos at first, but now he raves about my Terry Pratchett design!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I want a quote from Pratchett's book *Hogfather*. The text I want to get is a long paragraph – a conversation between two people – and I'm currently trying to figure out where to put it as it's so huge.

OWEN THORNTON
NOTTINGHAM



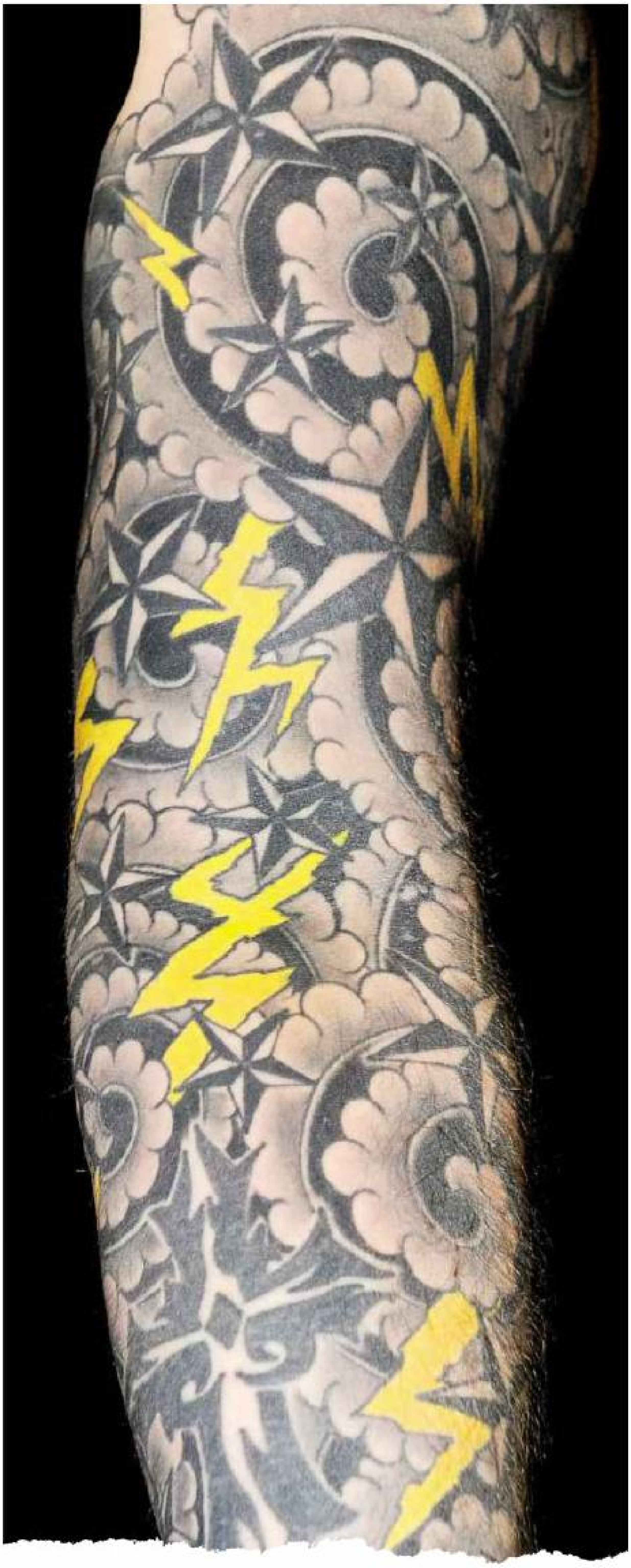
ARTIST
Lee Withey at Ghost House Collective, Derby.

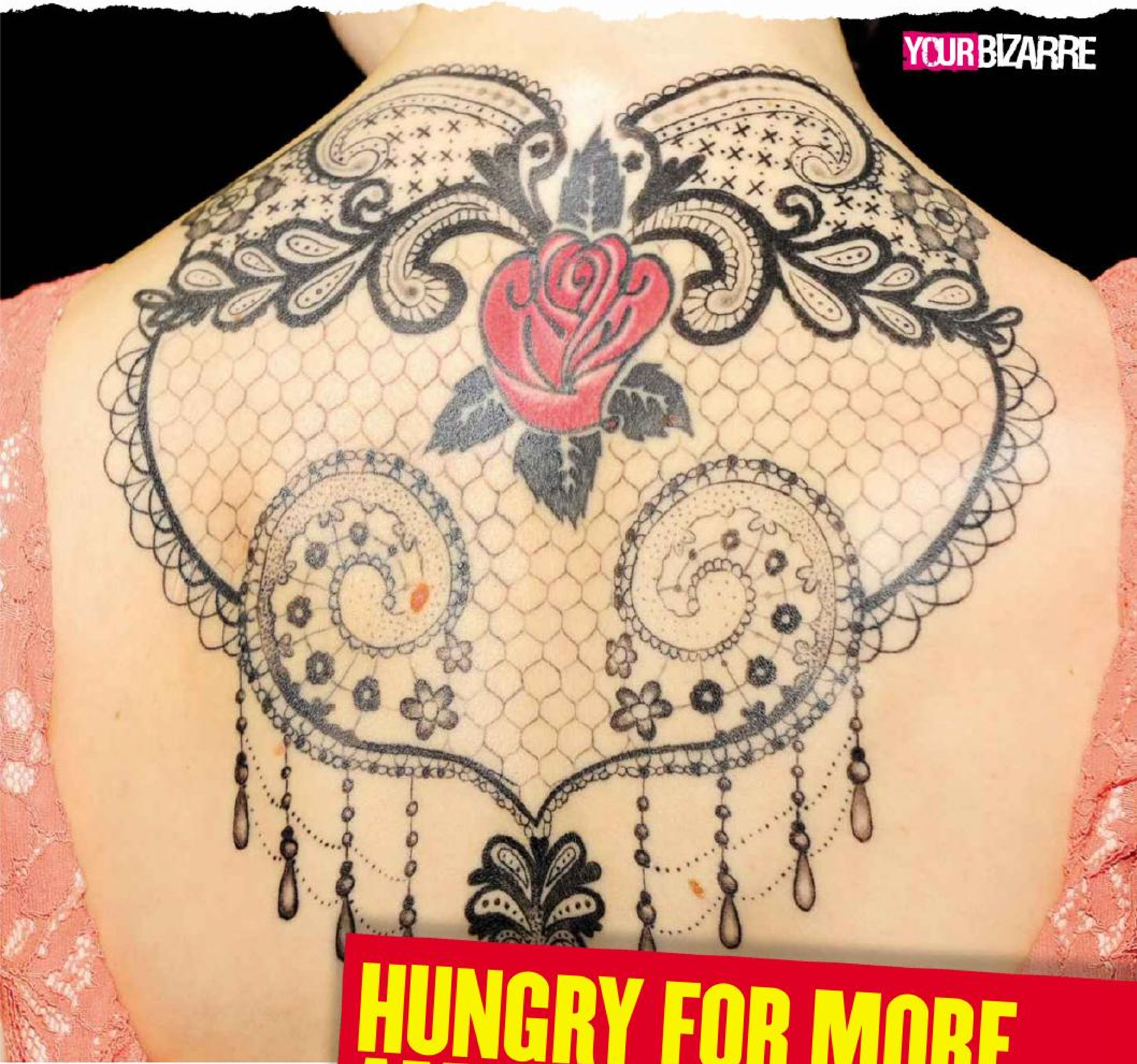
WHAT IS IT?
Oriental clouds.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS DESIGN?
I wanted a Japanese storm all the way down my arm. It's taken about five years to get it finished, partly because I've been pretty skint.

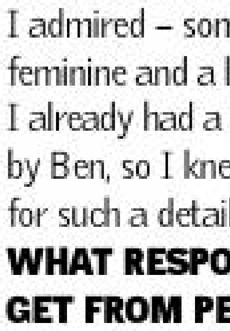
WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
I'm mates with a lot of decent tattoo artists in the Derby and Nottingham area, and it's gone down well.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I have my left palm tattooed, but I may get the right one done as well. I'm right handed, so that could be interesting!





GWENDA WILKES
KENT



ARTIST
Ben Griffiths at Inkfish Studios, Maidstone.

WHAT IS IT?
A decorative backpiece.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS DESIGN?
I wanted to expand my rose tattoo which I got a few years ago, but I waited until I'd found a style that I admired – something that was feminine and a little different. I already had a couple of tattoos by Ben, so I knew he'd be great for such a detailed design.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
My mother would be horrified. I haven't shown her yet!

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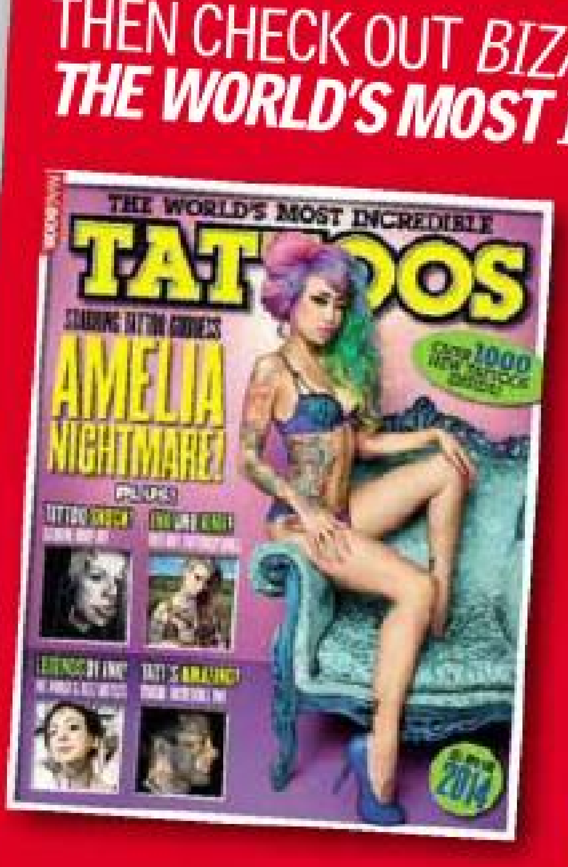
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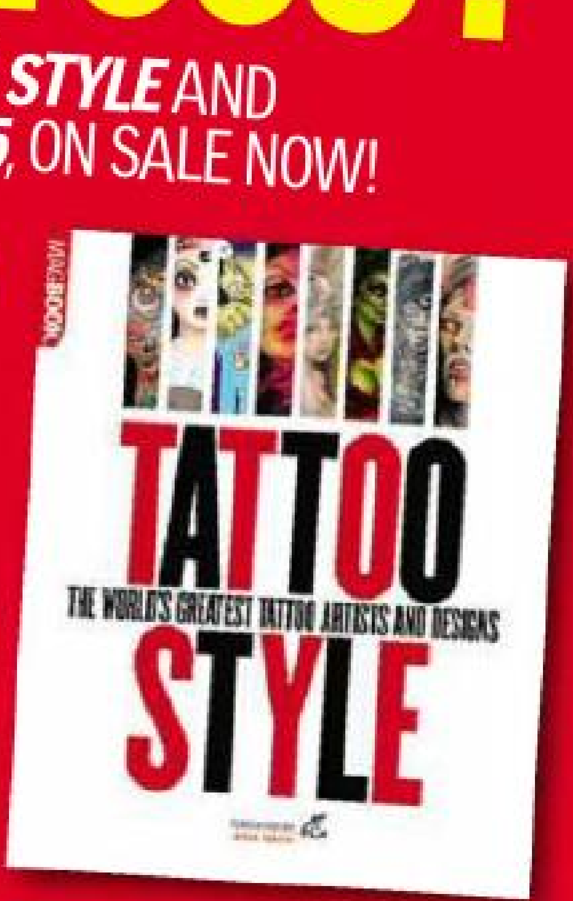
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THE WORLD'S GREATEST TATTOO ARTISTS AND DESIGNS

YOU TAPPU!

The hottest new ink submitted via the 69p iPhone app, *Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1*

WHAT IS TAPPU?

Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1 is a new iPhone app that showcases the world's most stunning body art.

Featuring interviews with world-class ink-slingers such as Angelique Houtkamp, Tin-Tin and Jesse Smith, detailed histories of six of the world's most popular ink styles, and galleries that feature many *Bizarre* readers snapped at British conventions, *Tappu!* is the best tattoo app on the market. And it's only 69p.

The app also features a built-in camera option that allows users to send photos of their ink directly to the *Tappu!* team. We'll be showcasing our favourite submissions in *Bizarre* each month and awarding a brilliant prize to our favourite ink, so there's never been a better time to get your tatts out.

What are you waiting for? Search the Apple App Store, download *Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1* and join the party!

Join the
TAPPU!
revolution at Tappu.co.uk

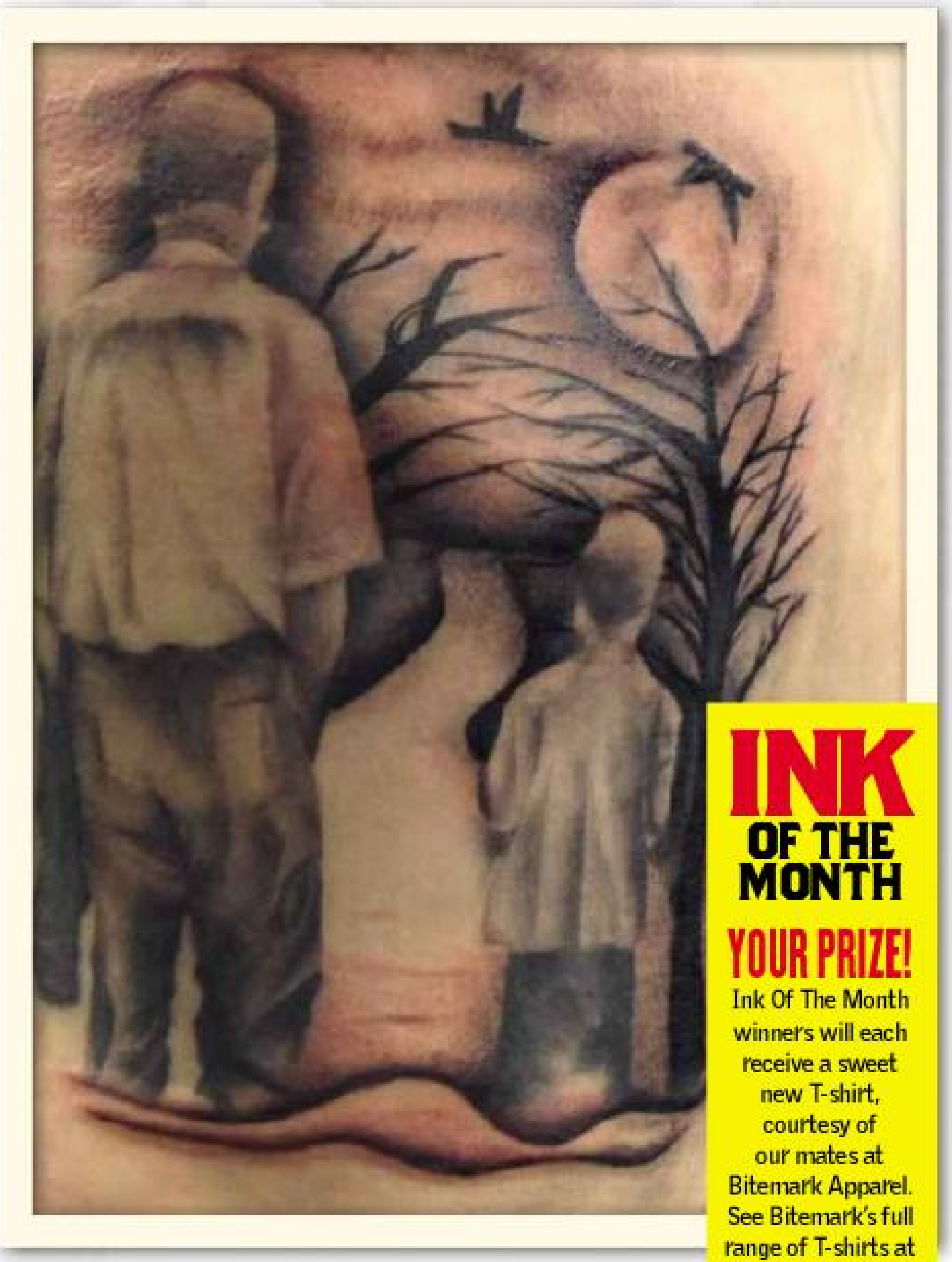
TOP TIPS!

If you're submitting ink via *Tappu!*, here are some pointers for creating prize-winning pics...

- Take your pictures using the highest quality photo setting. If your picture is nice and sharp, it's more likely to feature in the magazine.
- Spend time getting the lighting as good as possible to capture the true beauty of your tattoo. Dark and grotty images will be rejected!
- Hold your iPhone steady and try to make the final image as sharp as you can.
- Try to avoid strong sunlight and nasty backgrounds. Clean and clear pics are more likely to be winners

Bizarre readers can get 10 per cent off any purchase from Bitemarkapparel.com with promo code BM3009013

BITE MARK APPAREL



PAUL EGMORE, NORWICH

ARTIST Ross Lee at Inkaddiction Studios, Norwich.

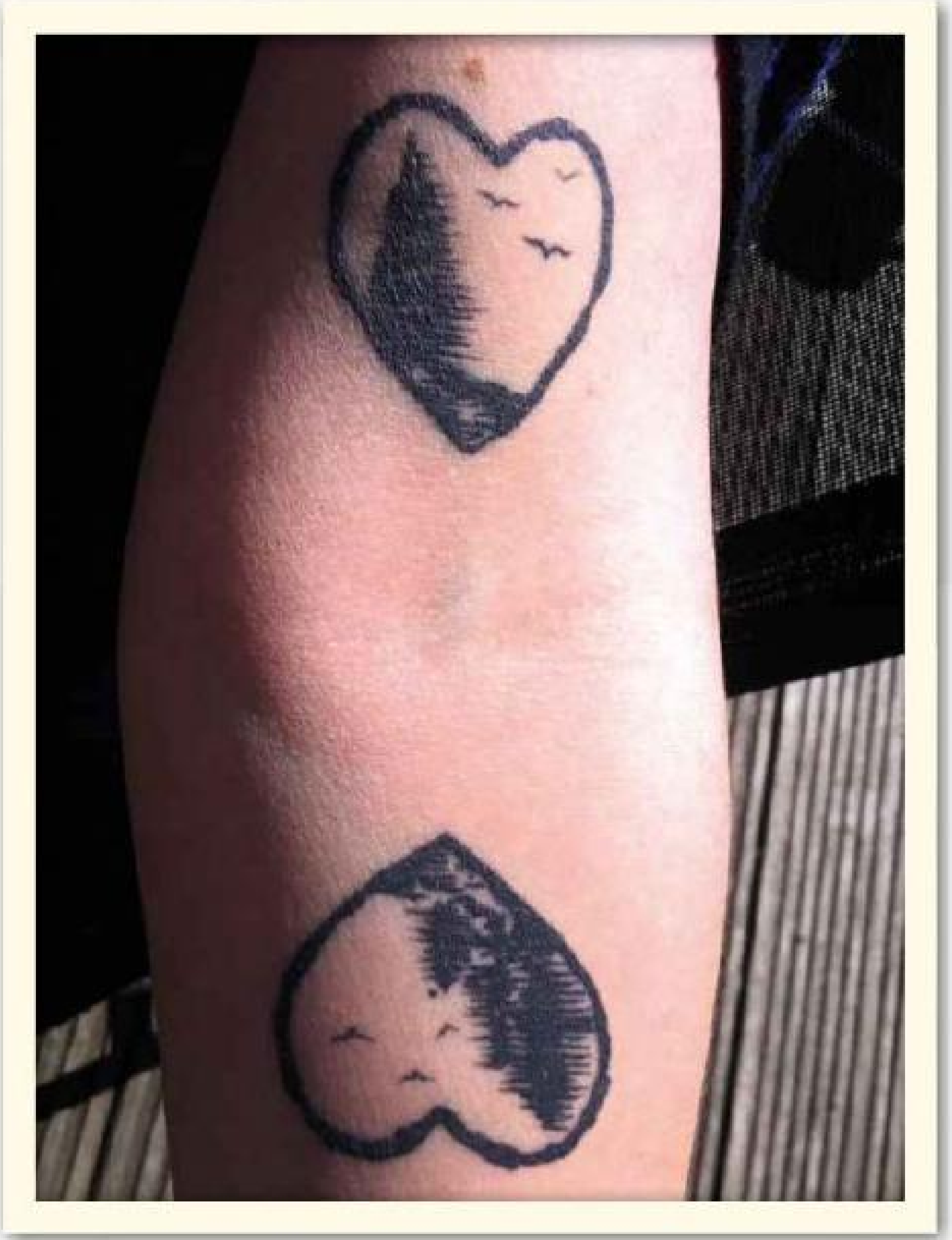
PAUL SAYS "My design is a memorial to two people I lost to cancer. Most of my friends and family love my tattoos – my mum doesn't mind, so long as I'm not borrowing money from her because I've spent all of mine on ink! Am I planning any more? Hell yeah! I like coming up with new ideas for tattoos and seeing them come to life."

INK OF THE MONTH

YOUR PRIZE!

Ink Of The Month winners will each receive a sweet new T-shirt, courtesy of our mates at Bitemark Apparel. See Bitemark's full range of T-shirts at Bitemarkapparel.com

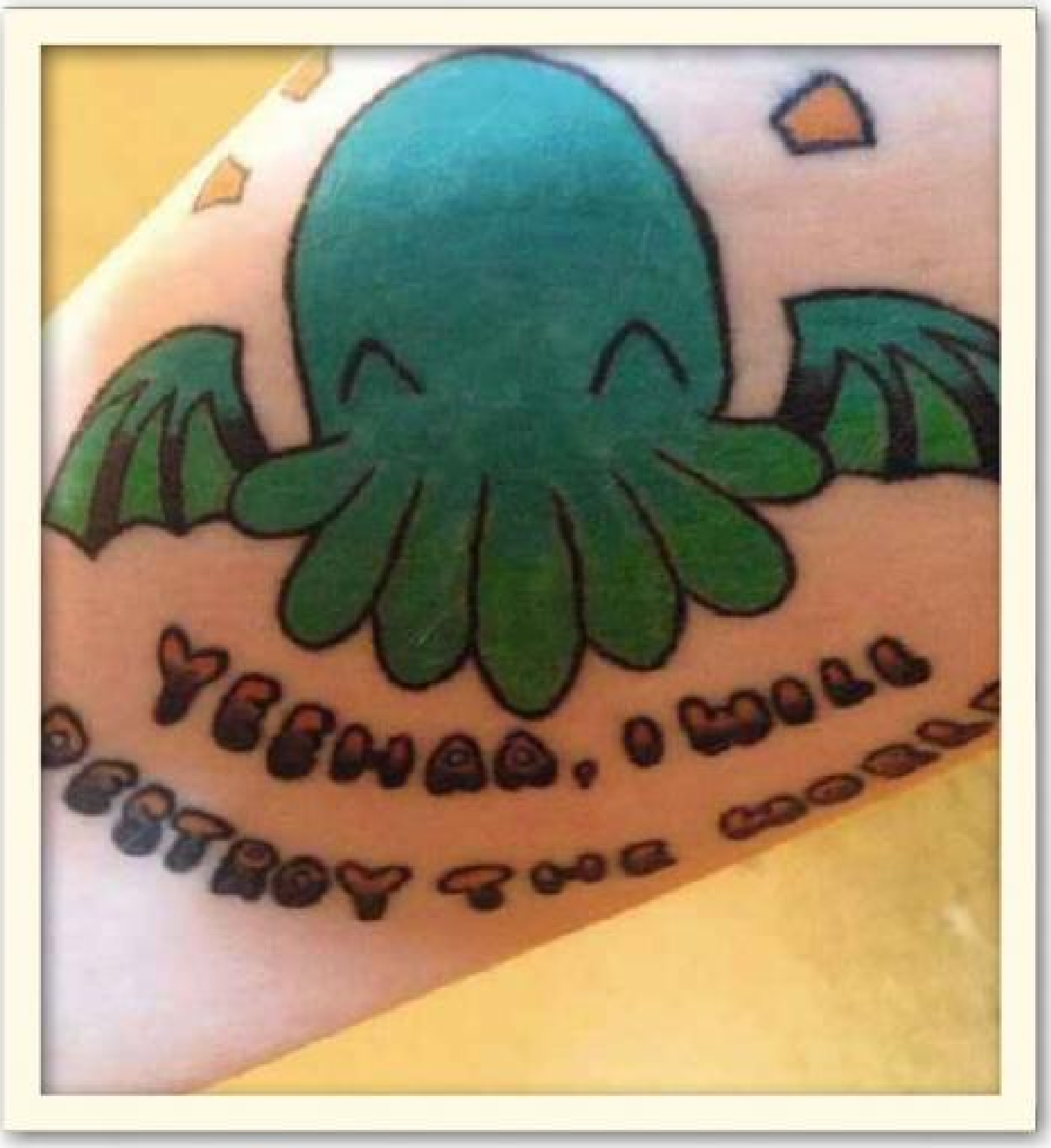
WINNERS WILL BE OFFERED A CHOICE FROM SIX DIFFERENT DESIGNS IN A VARIETY OF COLOURS AND SIZES, INCLUDING THE DESIGN SHOWN HERE

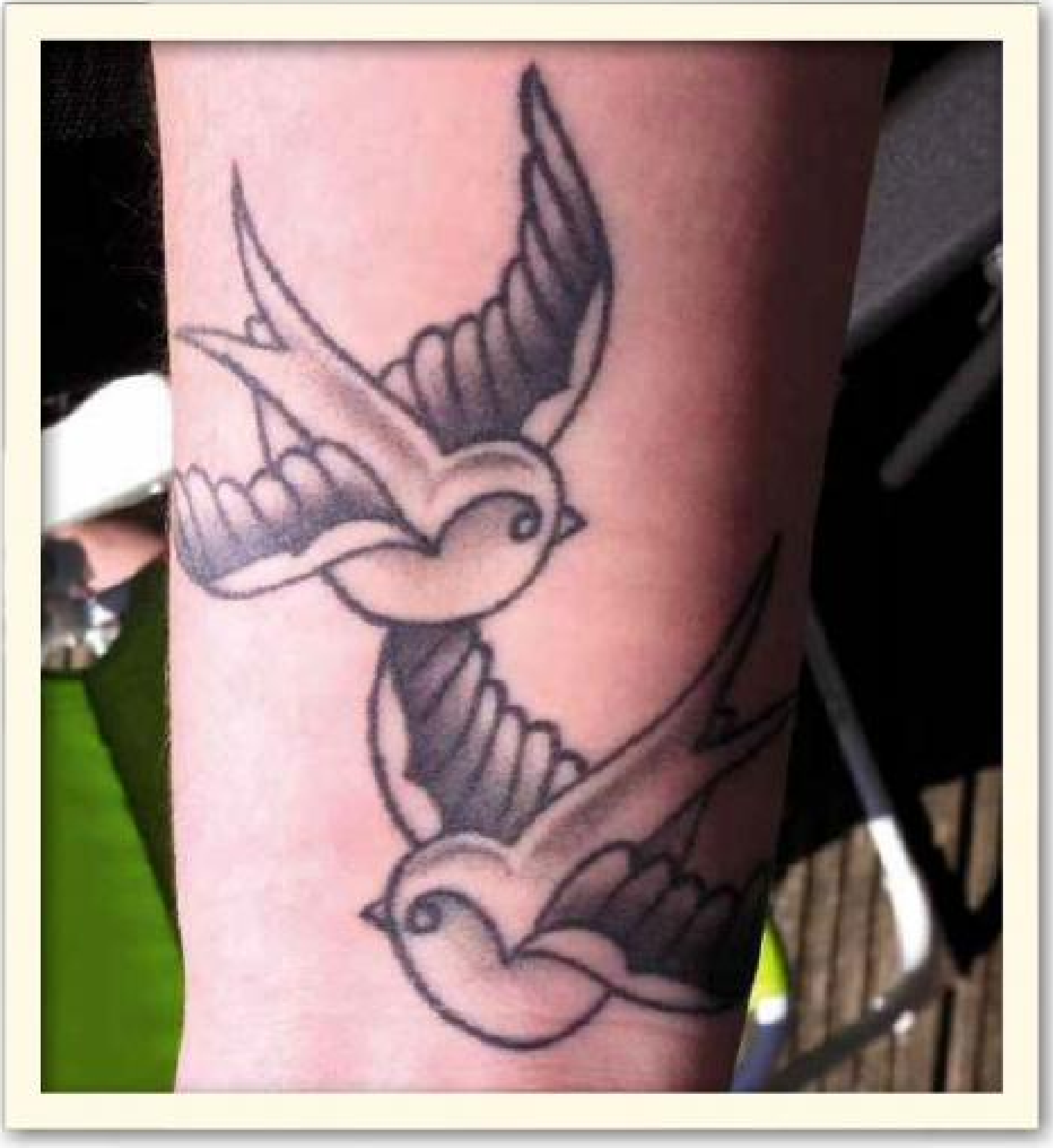


AMBER GLENNIE, ESSEX

ARTIST Unknown artist at Skyn Yard Tattoos, Southend On Sea.

AMBER SAYS "I spotted this design online when I was looking for something that could relate to my youngest son, Forrest. I altered the design by adding the birds, so there wasn't a gap beside the trees. I love how it's positioned over the inside of my elbow – it's a fairly uncommon place to have a tattoo. Tattoos are addictive and can tell the story of your life – they're so interesting! Next I'm planning to get a sugar skull that's also an owl, which I'll get on my ankle or on my ribs."





DIRK REILÄNDER, LAHNSTEIN, GERMANY

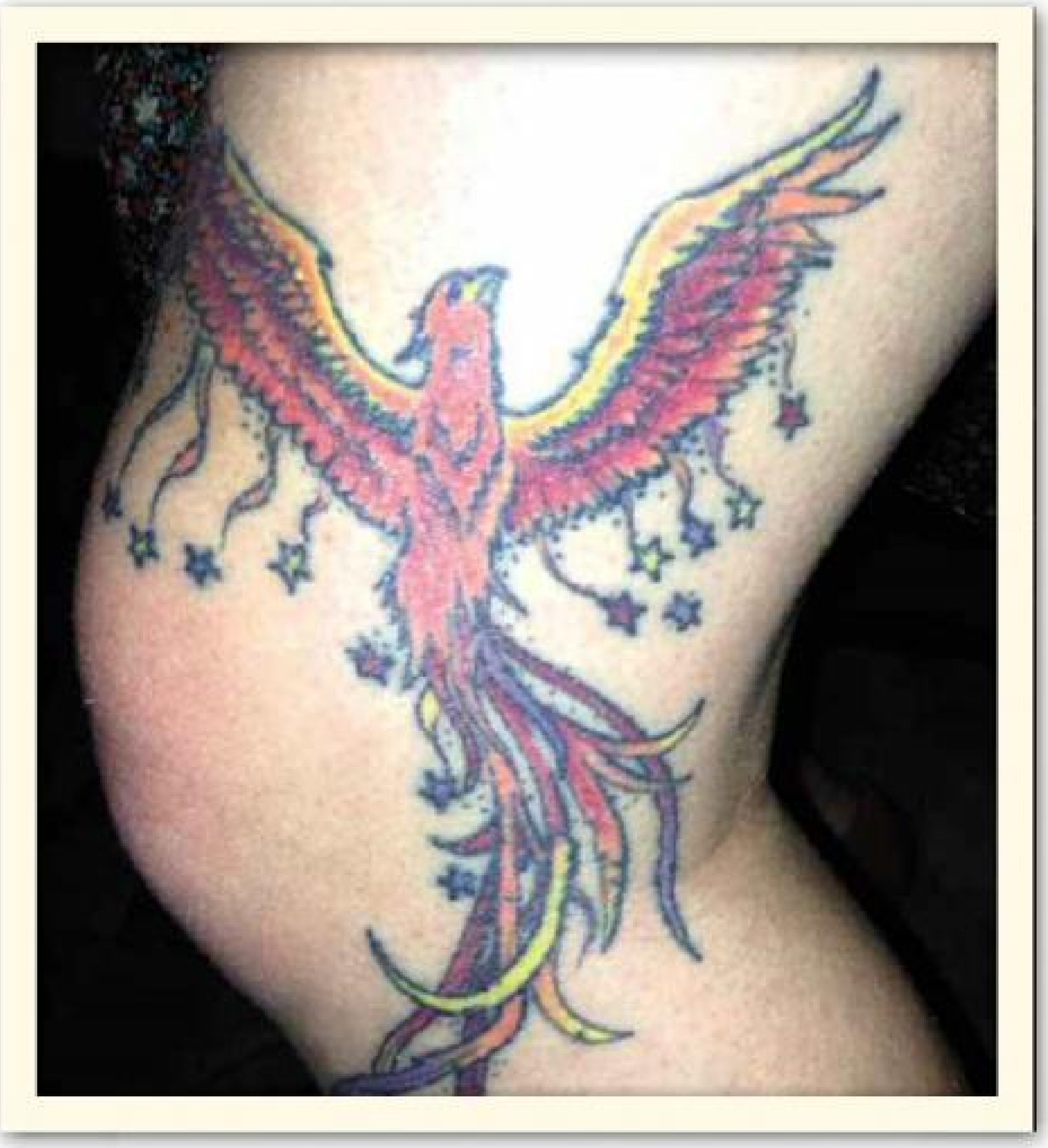
ARTIST Anna Schymaniuk at Antaris Tattoo & Piercing, Koblenz.

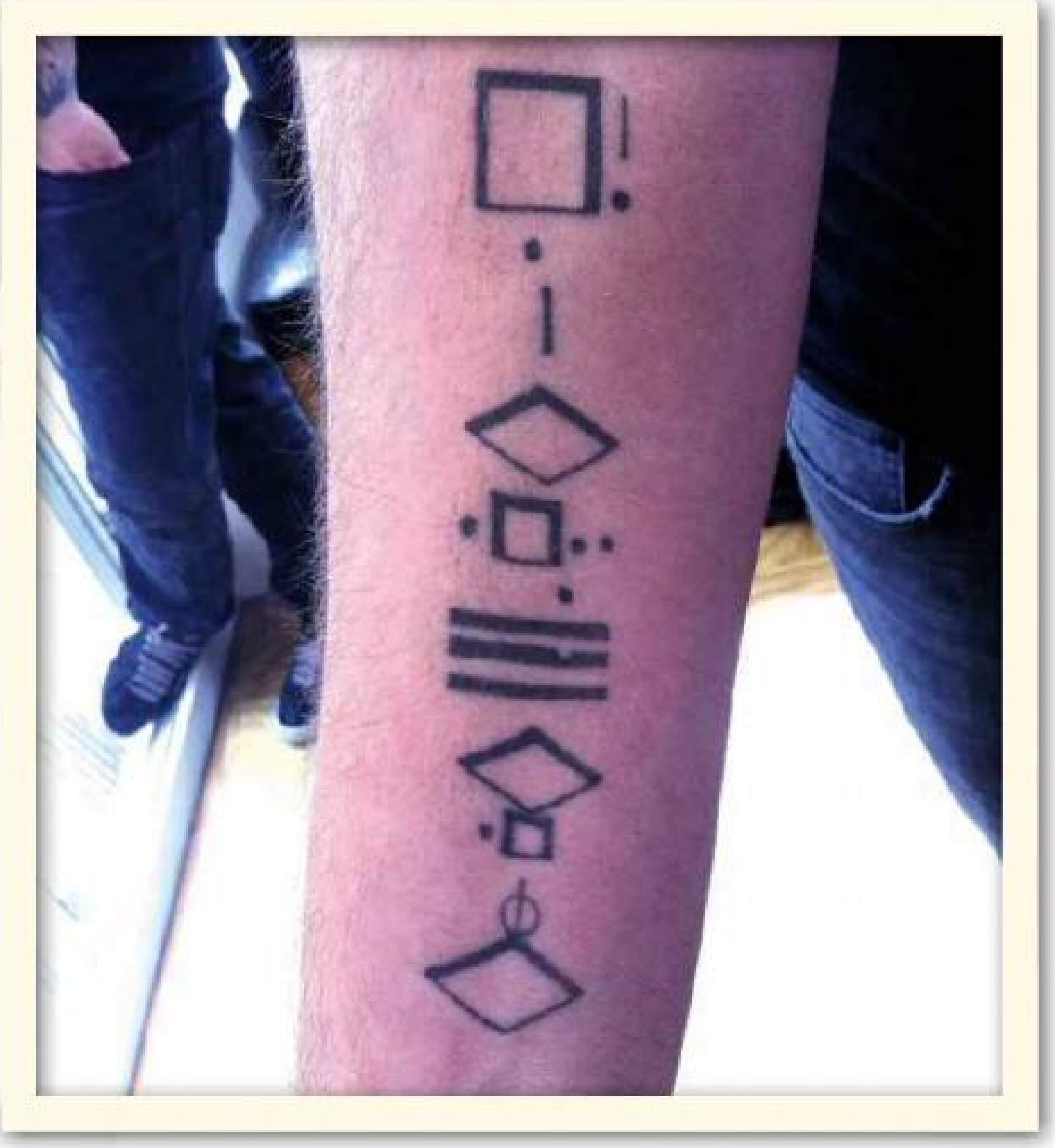
DIRK SAYS "The design is baby Cthulhu, inspired by the works of HP Lovecraft. The idea started as a joke with my friends – it represents that we all start small and need to stay focused on our dreams while we become more experienced. Even world destroyers start small! I like tattoos because they can represent important stages and experiences in your life, and are a great way to show how you've developed."

MIA SARGENT, ESSEX

ARTIST Albert Thomas at Skyn Yard Tattoos, Southend On Sea.

MIA SAYS "My design shows two swallows flying in opposite directions. Most of my family are fine with my tattoos, but my grandparents were more positive about this design than my mum and dad! I like the thought of carrying a piece of art with me – and even though this design wasn't chosen for a particular reason, it will always remind me of a special time in my life."





VAL SMITH, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

ARTIST Ian Petrie at Ian Petrie Tattoo, Brigg.

VAL SAYS "I chose this phoenix design because I caught fire at a party about a year ago, but I was lucky and received exceptional treatment at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield. I'd been toying with the idea of getting a phoenix tattoo, but decided I needed to get it after that fiery event! I find tattoos fascinating and expressive; a truly beautiful and personal art. I'm always saving and planning for my next one."

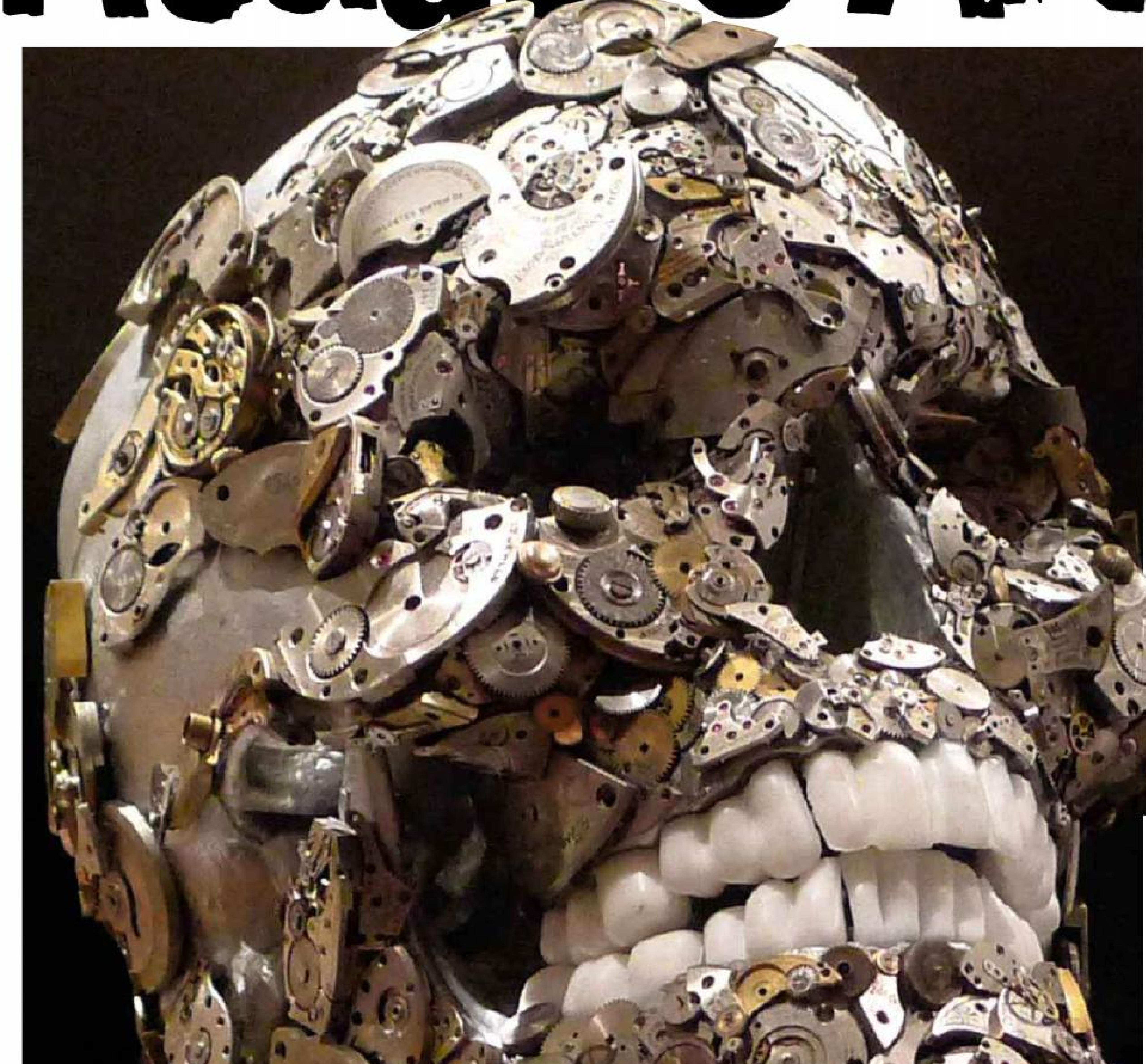
NATHAN GLENNIE, ESSEX

ARTIST Unknown artist at Urban Ink, Southend On Sea.

NATHAN SAYS "My tattoo is my son's name, Phoenix, written in Kryptonian, the language spoken on Superman's home world. People tend to think it's pretty cool, but they always ask me, 'How do you know it's spelt correctly?' I think you're born as a blank canvas, and that getting tattoos is a way to express your personality. I've had people tell me that I'll regret my tattoo choices when I'm older, but I'm hoping to look at them in 30 years and remember the good times."

YOUR DOODLES & MASTERPIECES

Readers' Art

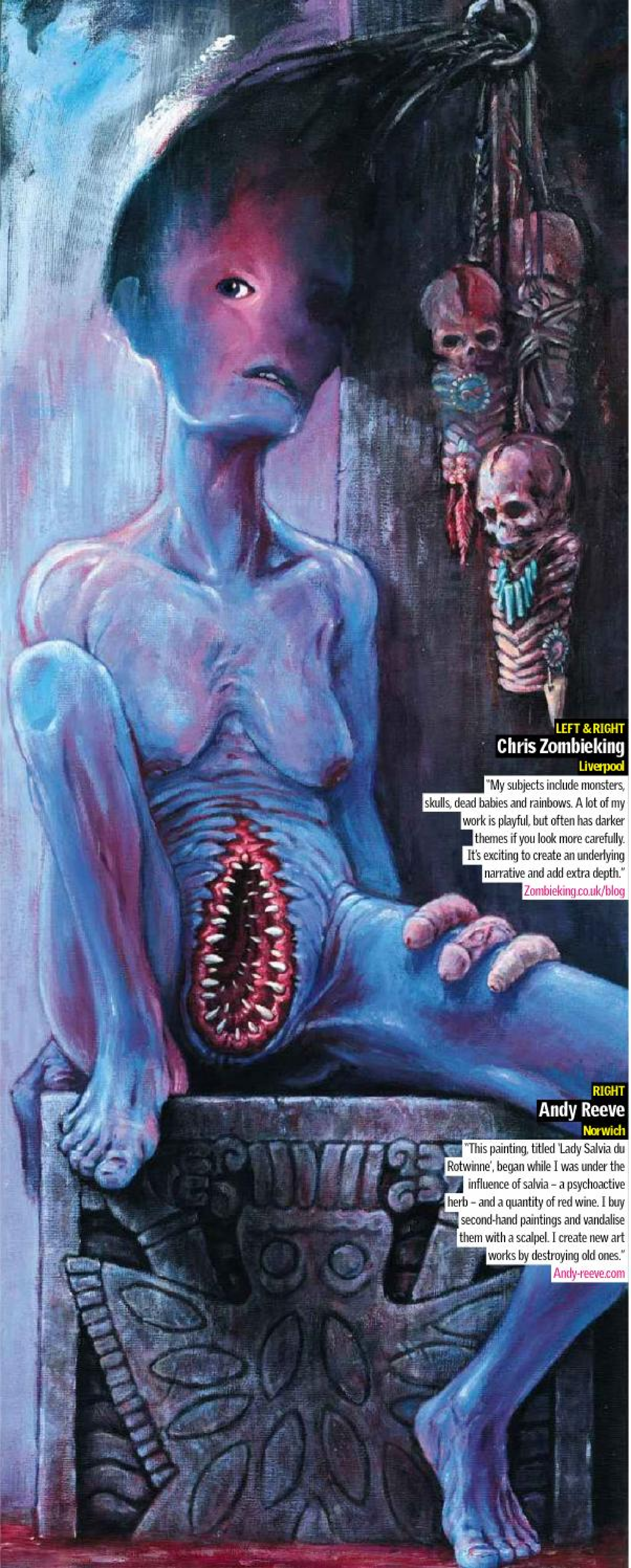


Dan Tanenbaum

Toronto, Canada

"I'm a steampunk artist, and I recently covered this skull with watch parts. I wanted an outlet for my creative spirit, so I started to experiment with watch parts as I'm an avid watch collector."

Facebook.com/watchpartsmotorcycles



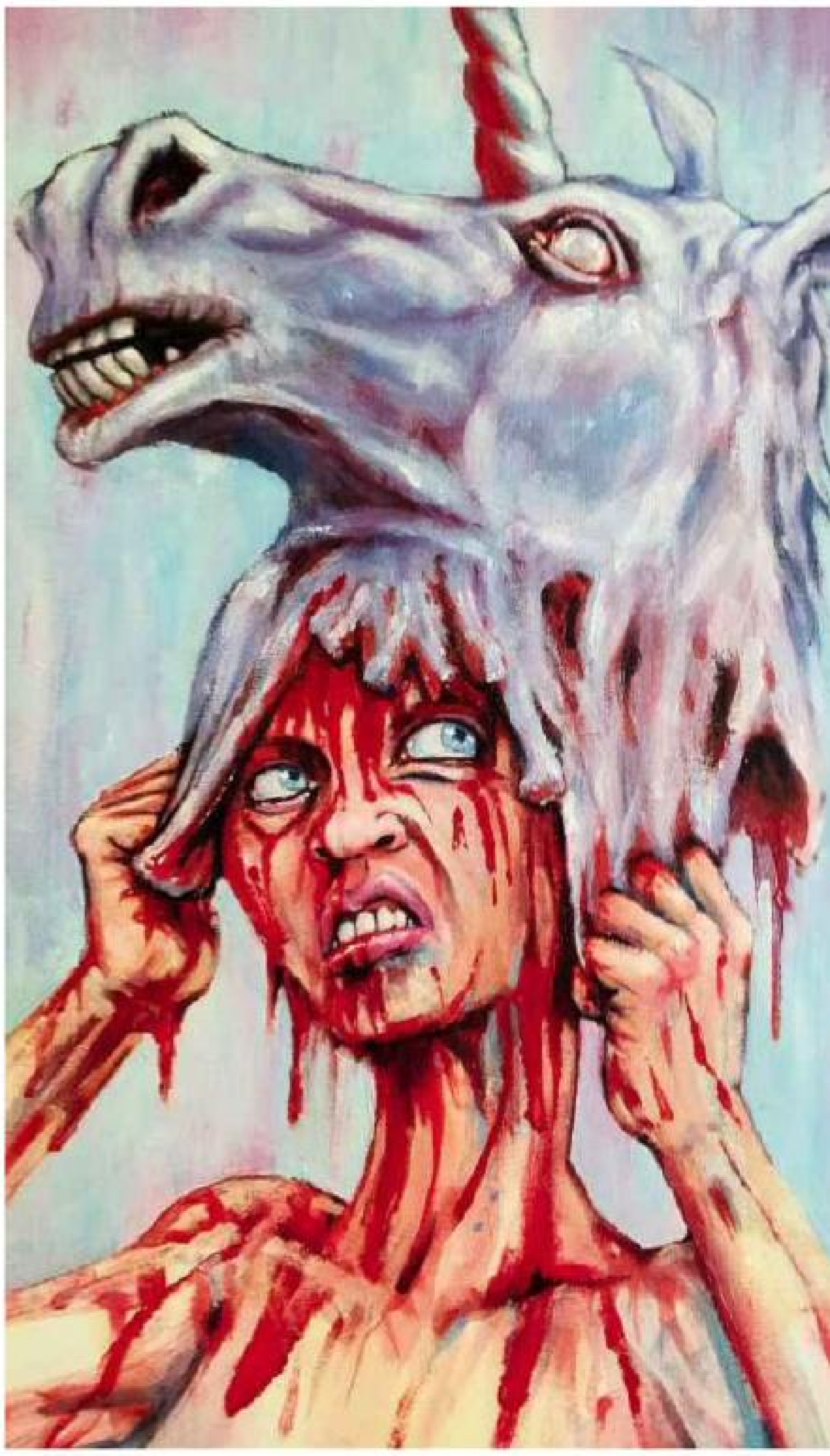
LEFT & RIGHT

Chris Zombieking

Liverpool

"My subjects include monsters, skulls, dead babies and rainbows. A lot of my work is playful, but often has darker themes if you look more carefully. It's exciting to create an underlying narrative and add extra depth."

Zombieking.co.uk/blog



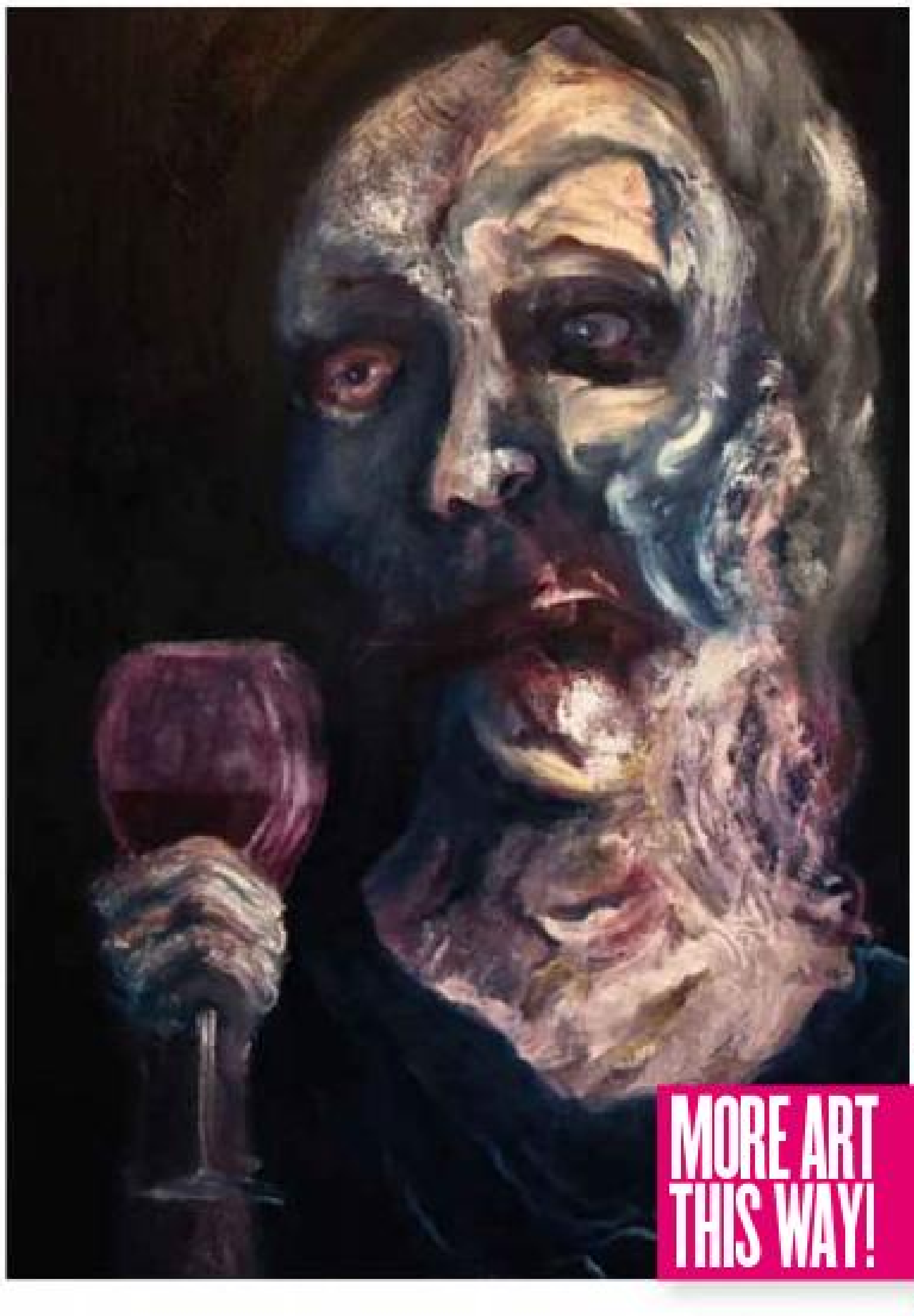
RIGHT

Andy Reeve

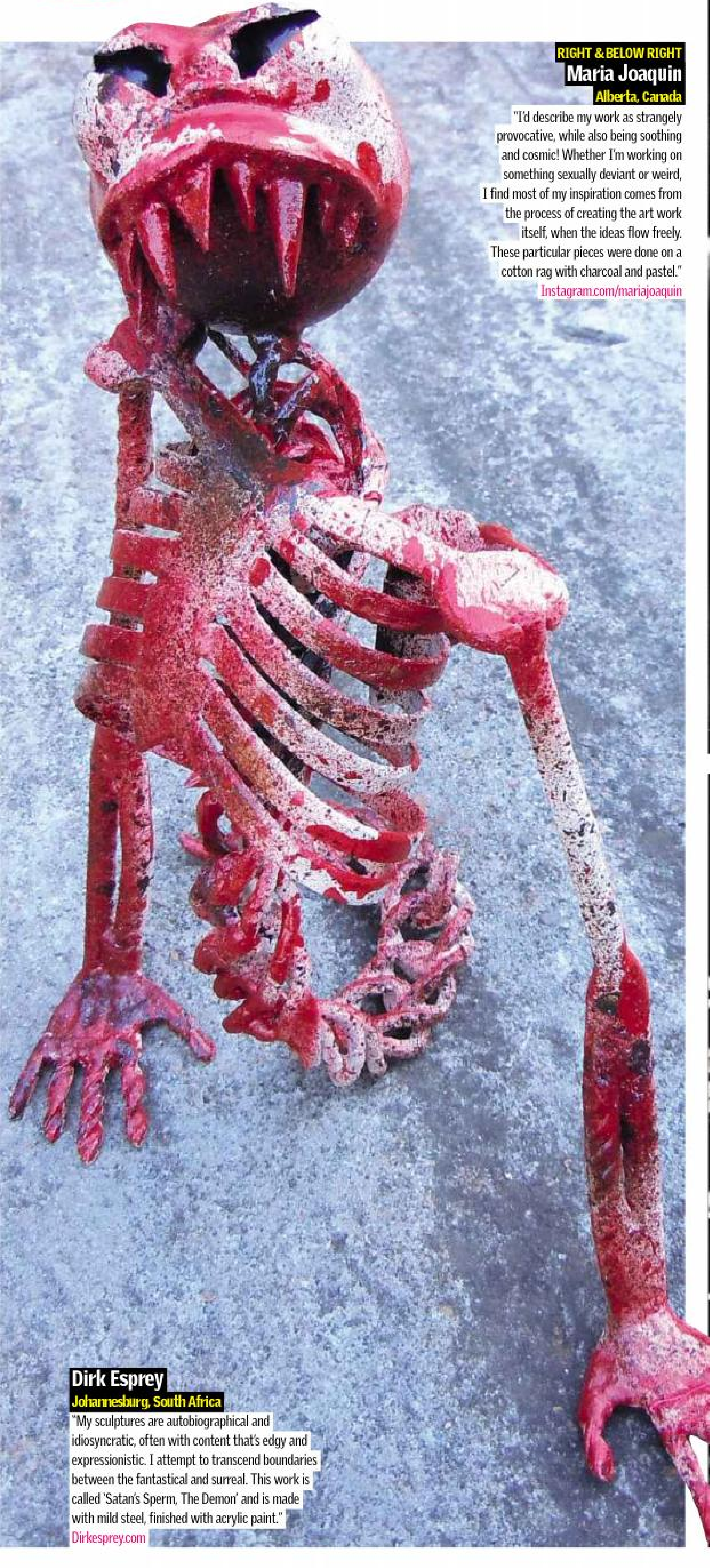
Norwich

"This painting, titled 'Lady Salvia du Rotwinne', began while I was under the influence of salvia – a psychoactive herb – and a quantity of red wine. I buy second-hand paintings and vandalise them with a scalpel. I create new art works by destroying old ones."

Andy-reeve.com



MORE ART THIS WAY!



Dirk Esprey

Johannesburg, South Africa

"My sculptures are autobiographical and idiosyncratic, often with content that's edgy and expressionistic. I attempt to transcend boundaries between the fantastical and surreal. This work is called 'Satan's Sperm, The Demon' and is made with mild steel, finished with acrylic paint."

Dirkesprey.com

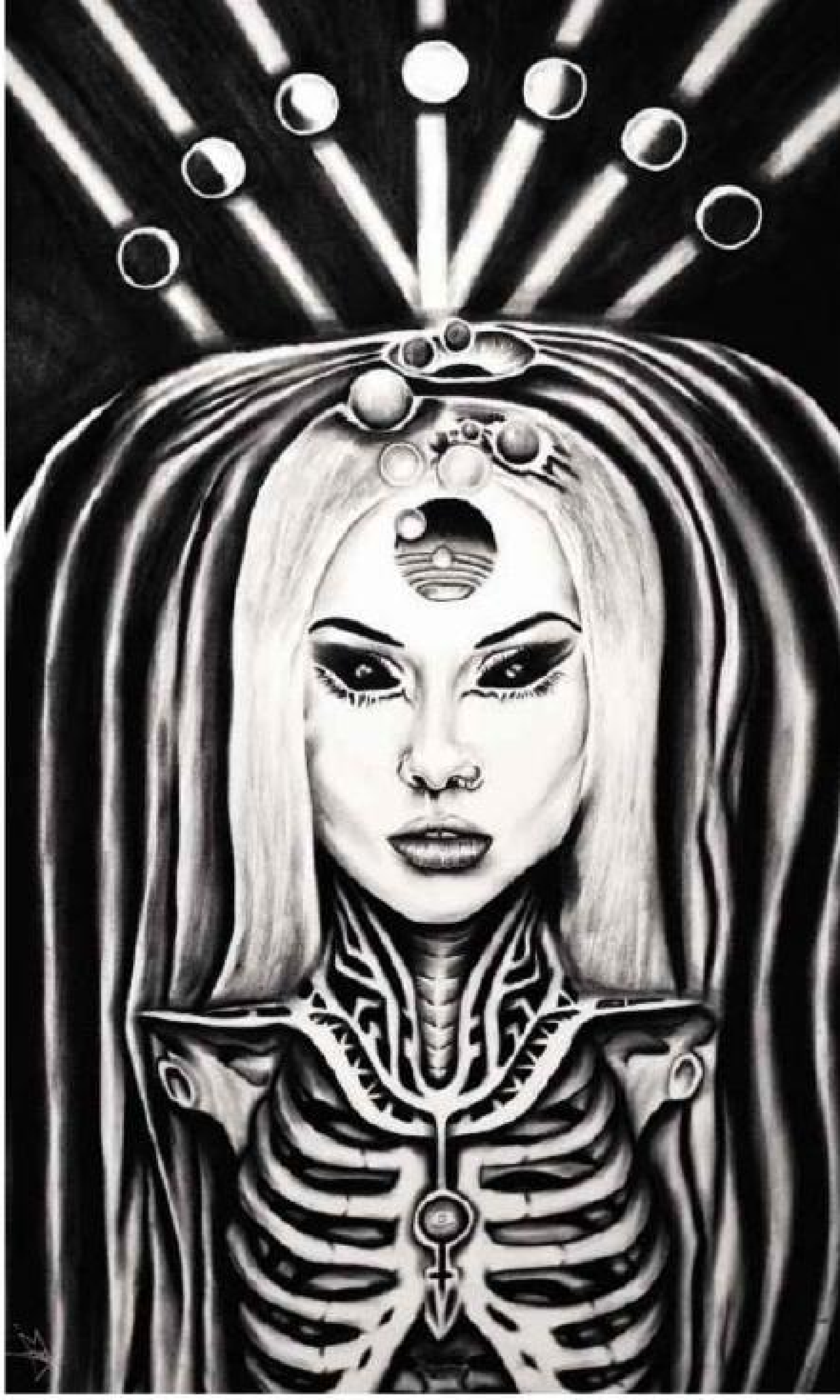
RIGHT & BELOW RIGHT

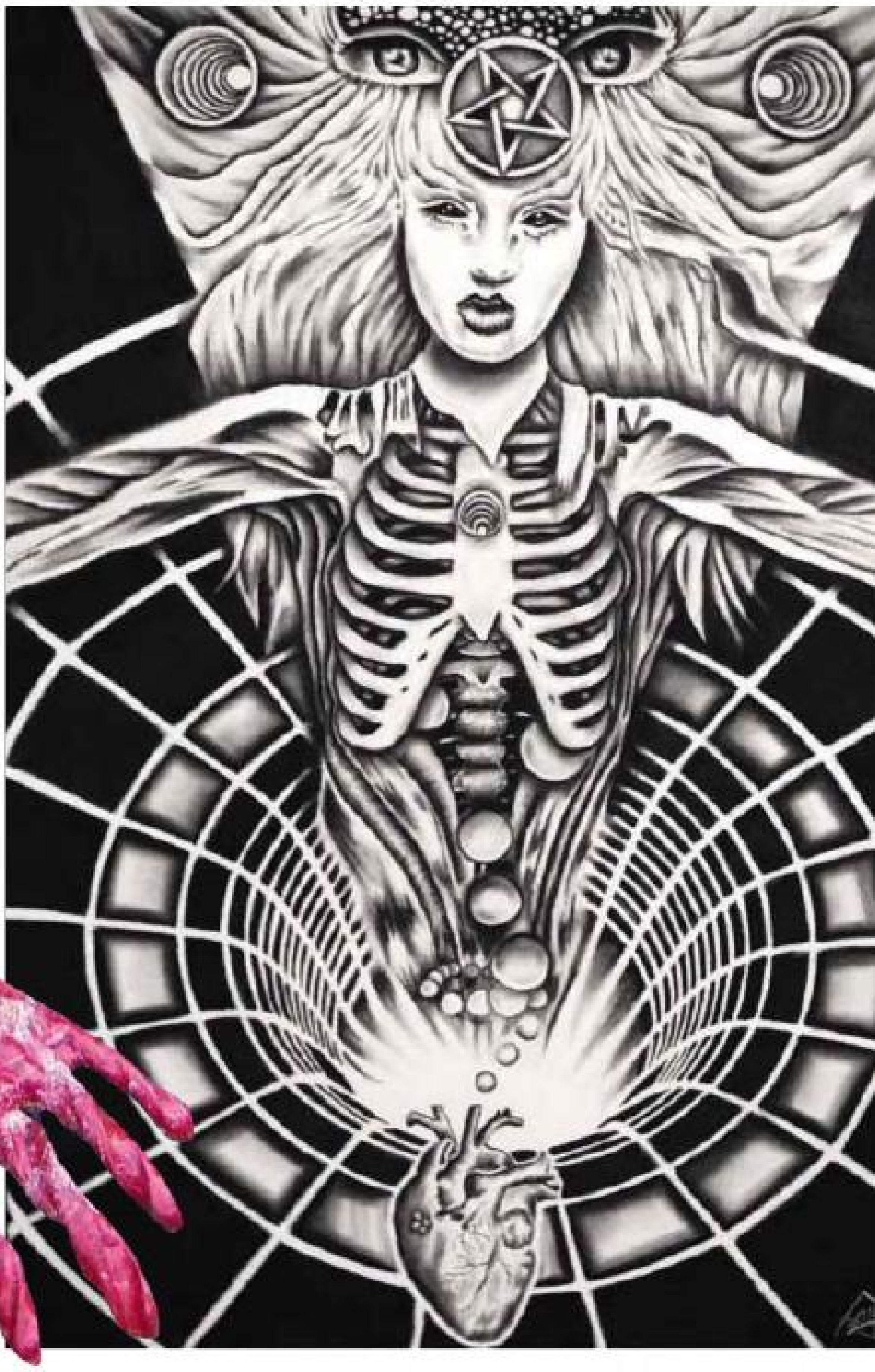
Maria Joaquin

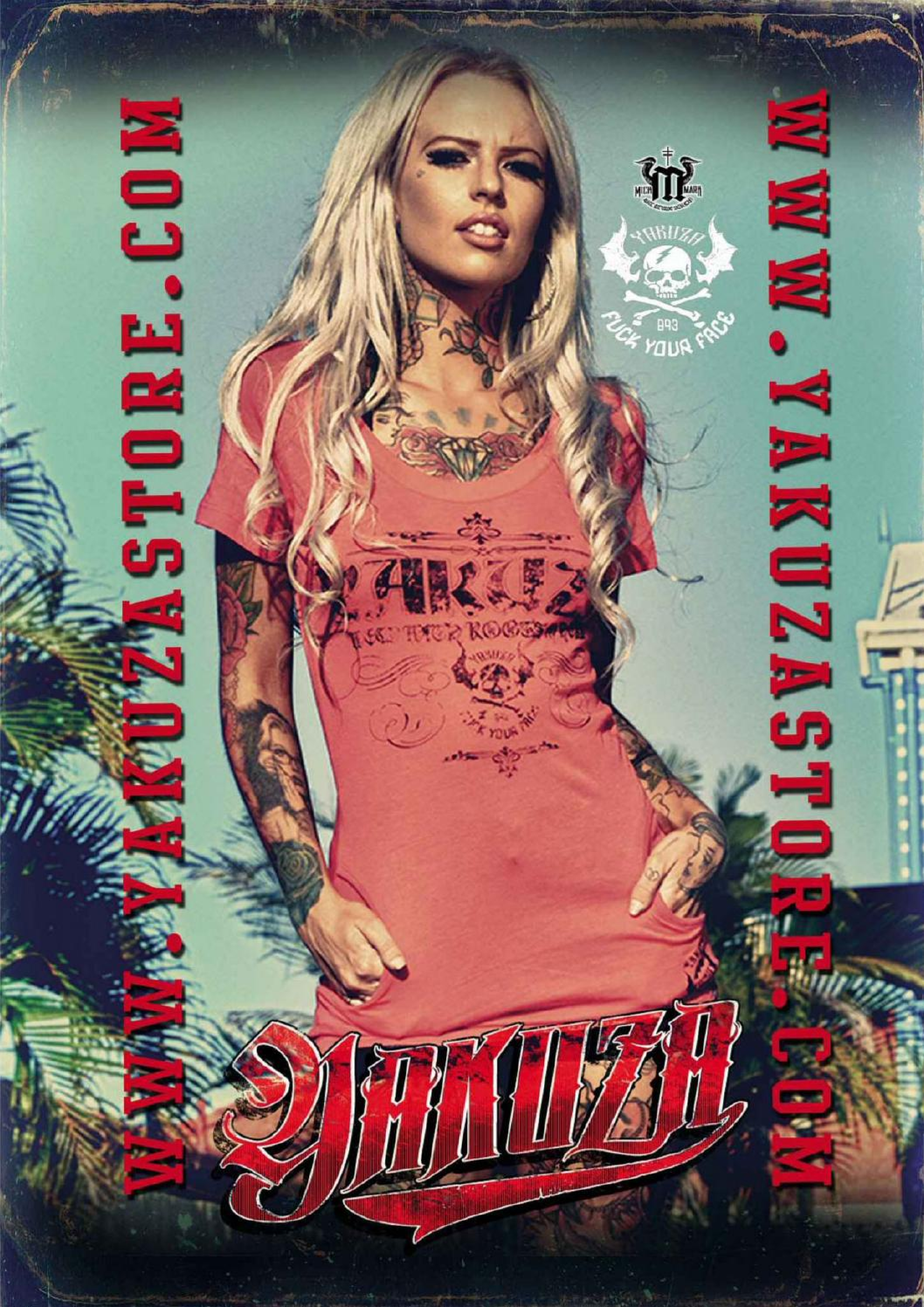
Alberta, Canada

"I'd describe my work as strangely provocative, while also being soothing and cosmic! Whether I'm working on something sexually deviant or weird, I find most of my inspiration comes from the process of creating the art work itself, when the ideas flow freely. These particular pieces were done on a cotton rag with charcoal and pastel."

Instagram.com/mariajoaquin



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BIZARRE'S Ultra Vixens

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DIXIEDREAD1

24, BRIGHTON

"I'm a glamorous gothic glitter queen who likes to take her clothes off and rub herself in blood. I love food, tattoos and men, and my hottest sexual fantasy is a sexy threesome with Rob Zombie and Marilyn Manson! Can *Bizarre* make this happen, please?"

PICTURE: KEITH – MOVING PICTURES PHOTOGRAPHY

MIFFY_DOLL

24, LIVERPOOL

"I'm a fierce and wild natural redhead. I'm fascinated by the unusual, and I get along with anyone who's weird. My ideal partner wouldn't be afraid to act human – we all do strange stuff! Humour and loyalty is always important, too!"

PICTURE: WESLEY ALCORN – WEZISM PHOTOGRAPHY

RED-HOT!

SEE 100s MORE SEXY ALT.GIRLS ONLINE AT ULTRAVIXENS.NET

PHIE

20, KENT

"I'm a Rammstein fanatic who lives in leather, studs and spandex. My weirdest life moment was being jizzed on by a giant cock spurting foam as Till Lindemann winked at me the first time I saw Rammstein perform! Before I die, I'd love to create crazy art with Noel Fielding. I reckon we'd get on."

PICTURE: JAMES MOFFAT

HARLEYROSEMODEL

19, COVENTRY

"When I travelled to Egypt a few years ago, someone genuinely offered to buy me for 1,000 camels. It was pretty weird, but a fair deal. I'd love to be taken to someone's dungeon filled with shackles, torture devices and a huge four poster bed. I guess you could call me submissive!"

PICTURE: COLIN MILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

DANTELAYLA

25, MANCHESTER

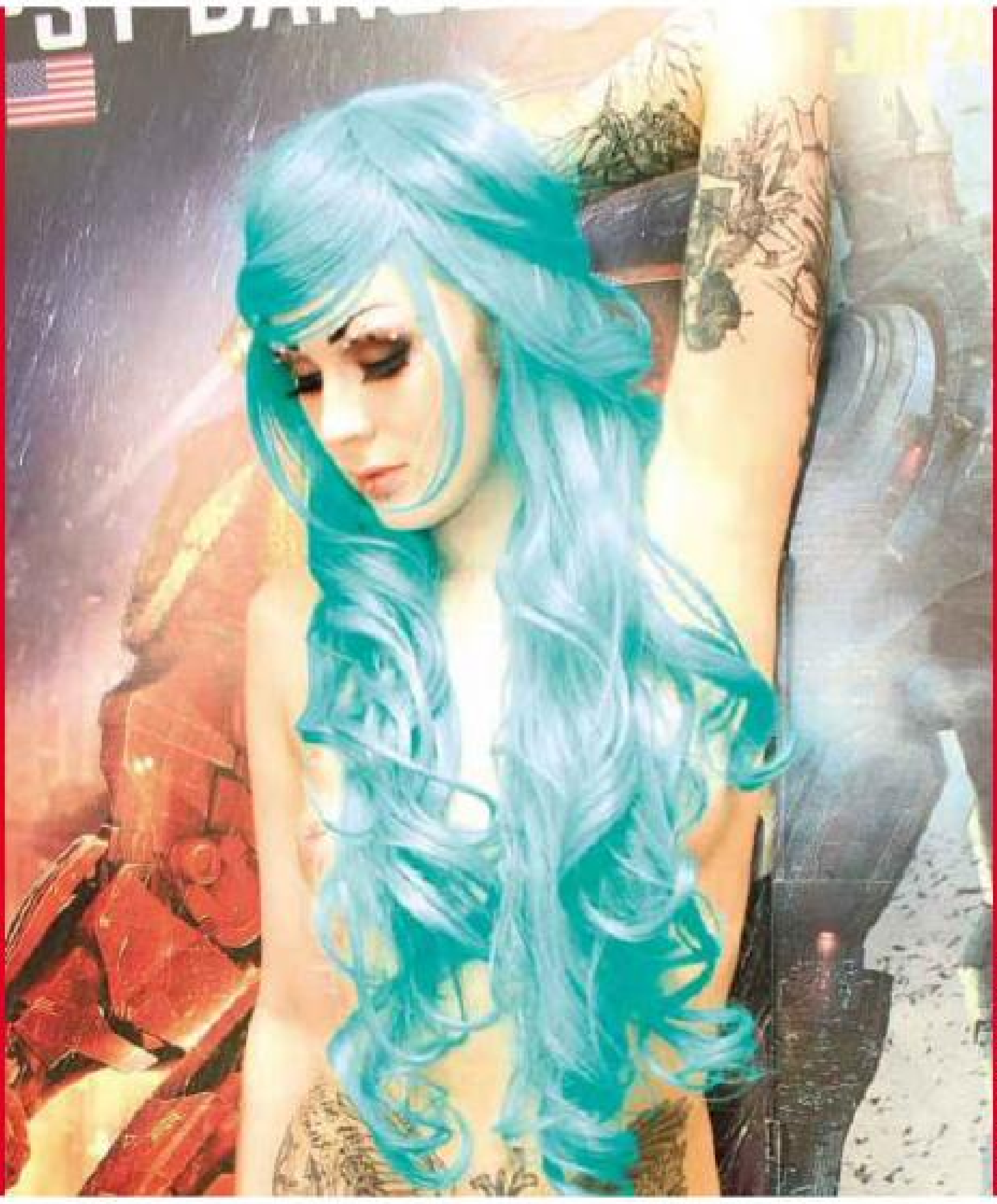
"I'm a Dr Jekyll / Mr Hyde type – I can be the nicest person you've ever met, or your worst enemy. My weirdest life moment so far was being told by my mother that she was a dominatrix. *Bizarre* has been a constant pleasure in my life for the past 10 years!"

PICTURE: GINGERTUFT PHOTOGRAPHY

OUR NEW FAVES

BIZARRE ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND MANDATRON JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET

PICTURE: BRIANJ PHOTOGRAPHY



PICTURE: DANNY MEYLAN

KAEYNA KOSTROMIN

Mandatron says: "This saucy minx from Swansea loves being in front of the camera. Kaeyna has a great variety of shoots under her belt, and rocks whatever she wears (or not, as the case may be.) Welcome her to **Ultravixens.net** by showing your appreciation with purple hearts (for more info see below, right)."

Dave Kelsall says: "This is the tamest shot from her profile… nip onto **Ultravixens.net** to see some interesting stuff. My favourite is the shot where she's naked in a shed of chains!"

ABSINTHIA

Mandatron says: "Sometimes you can't beat a relaxed bedroom shot like this. Absinthia looks sexy wearing little more than wigs, lingerie and a smile. You can bet your bottom dollar that her gallery will appeal to cosplay and comicbook fans – check out her **Ultravixens.net** profile to find out why."

Dave says: "Yeah! That's some tattoo poking out of her pants there… I can't quite work out what it is, but it looks like a massive winged sea monster thing. Extraordinary!"

KER-CHING!

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Eliza-Beth (below) is one of our latest **LIVE CHAT** girls. Sign up and head to **Ultravixens.net/eliza-beth** to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of **LIVE CHAT** Ultra Vixens, go to **UltraVixens.net/live**

PICTURE EB MEDIA – ELIZAFETISH.COM

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FULL STEAM AHEAD

She'll mist up your goggles, get your piston pumping, and hypnotise you with her riveting rivets – meet the hottest, smartest, brass-kickin' steampunk wondersprite on the planet, **Kato**…

WORDS
ALIX FOX

PICTURES
STEAMGIRL.COM

Sure, Kato might originally hail from Wales, and grew up in a 300-year old rectory with a 12th century cemetery in the back yard. She may have moved to California seven years ago, her whole life stuffed into a single suitcase, bracing herself against both "immigration red tape hell" and the rumbles of her first Los Angeles earthquake experience. And she may well now live in a dense forest at the foot of a volcano named Mount Hood in "beaver-infested" Oregon, where she →

spends time wandering along the woodland trails and riverbanks, fishing and playing guitar. But Kato doesn't look like she's of this earth at all. She looks like the result of an experiment involving applying extreme heat and pressure to a pornographic manga comicbook: a fantasy character peeled from the pages and made impeccably, surreally real, with videogame proportions and the kind of knockout eyes you'll see when you shut your own – the only dark spots on a fluid, flowing body made of milk, with long, pearl-coloured hair and skin so pale it's almost opalescent. She looks as though she was beamed down after being grown from stunning molecules of pure light by star-spangled sex aliens.

Kato (real name Kate – the extra vowel was presumably inspired by the soft sighs involuntarily emitted by everyone who lays eyes upon her) isn't just a beauty, though. She's a smart cookie, with extra IQ choc chips, frosted with originality and more than a crumb of business acumen.

Kato designs, handmakes and sells neo-Victoriana-styled clothing through her company, Steampunk Couture. She also writes for *Ladies Of Steampunk* and *Bronze Age* magazines, and on Valentine's Day 2013 unleashed her alt.erotica site, Steamgirl.com, which features tantalising snaps of Kato herself and other engine-revvingly ravishing lasses doing things that'll have you reaching for the smelling salts.

"I studied for a career in fashion illustration, but I ended up founding my own custom clothing company, which launched on the very cusp of the steampunk genre becoming popular," she explains. "For a while I ran the only steampunk label in the world, which helped propel me and my label forward. I began modelling my creations myself for convenience, then this led to other gigs posing for the camera. Being a model was accidental."

> **"I'VE RECEIVED LOTS OF SNAPS OF PEOPLE'S KATO DOLLS ARRANGED IN 'CREATIVE' POSITIONS' WITH THEIR LARA CROFT FIGURES..."**

Kato says that she luxuriates in the process of bringing sexy ideas to life in images, but fashion design is her bread and butter, and what pays for her extensive taxidermy and antique collections. Nowadays she has two seamstresses and an assistant named Professor Falconer, who help keep the business ticking over, but she still spends plenty of time sporting a thimble herself.

"I once sewed right through my finger, which was gross as hell!" she remarks. "My hands are a constant mess of cuts, scrapes, and chunks of flesh missing, but I deal with the misery by covering all the injuries with unicorn band-aids."

1 P'KATO, 2 P'KATO, 3 P'KATO, 4…

Bizarre likes to imagine that Kato's mauled mitts aren't the result of accidents with a Singer machine, but instead that she may have been playfully clawed a pet dragon →

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> “I ONCE SEWED RIGHT THROUGH MY FINGER, WHICH WAS GROSS. MY HANDS ARE A CONSTANT MESS OF CUTS, SCRAPES AND CHUNKS OF MISSING FLESH”

– there’s more than a hint of *Game Of Thrones*’ Daenerys Targaryen about her.

“I receive a lot of requests to shoot elf, fairy and *Lord Of The Rings*-styled photos,” she admits. So how does she achieve those mystical, magical looks? “I’m a big fan of ‘circle’ contact lenses, which increase the diameter of the iris for that wide-eyed cosplay effect; I’ve got several 14mm pairs, which are thankfully available in my blind-as-a-mole prescription!” Kato reveals. She also says that weight training, running and cycling are “as important to me as brushing my teeth – I make exercise part of my day rather than something I only do if I have the time, as it keeps my mind healthy as well as my body, and is an excuse to get out into the open.”

Nature is second nature to Kato. “I pretend to be really outgoing and awesome, but in all honesty I’m uncomfortable in large crowds and pretty down to earth; a self-confessed hermitty homesteader of a girl who’s always felt most at peace surrounded by greenery, pottering around in the garden and planting vegetables while daydreaming about disappearing to some tiny South Pacific island and wiling away my days drinking rum and never wearing shoes,” she smiles. “Every windowsill in my house is currently crowded with paper party cups that say ‘Princess’ on the side, with seeds growing inside, ready to be popped into the soil when they’re strong enough.”

When not looking like the cog’s bollocks in steampunk gear, Kato favours a Japanese mode of dressing called ‘Mori Kei’, which translates as ‘Forest style’, and emerged from the streets of Tokyo around 2007.

“It’s a sweet, comfy way of layering up until you’re a big pile of rustic, earthy, shabby chic lace and knits and look as though you could live in a treehouse or have jumped straight out of a northern European fairy tale such as Hansel and Gretel,” Kato explains. “It’s also a cosy, warm way of wrapping up in the chilly Oregonian climate. Any outfits or accessories that I’m not able to make myself I often source from eBay – I’m so good at finding specific, often obscure items that my mates have nicknamed me ‘eBay Wan Kenobay’!” Recent additions to the Welsh wonder’s wardrobe include a badass Western-inspired duster jacket she stitched to wear at the Wild Wild West Convention in Arizona, where I she judged a costume competition, and… um… a T-shirt a fan sent her with a picture of his own face printed on it. She also received a glass tentacle dildo from an anonymous sender. *Octopussy*, anyone? →

…5 P'KATO, 6 P'KATO, 7 P'KATO, PHWOAR!

While Kato is a self-confessed outdoors addict, she admits that nature can be "a cruel old crone sometimes" – or so she thought regarding the size of her bewbs. She speaks in a considered, balanced way about her decision to get breast implants. "I was completely denied boobs during puberty, and I was *so* looking forward to that part, too!" she laughs. "I got over it, though, and took advantage of my flat chest by embracing long-distance running and high impact activities. However, a couple of years ago I finally saved enough funds to buy myself 'birthday boobies' – the decision-making process for me involved the same kinds of reasoning as getting a tattoo. I reckon I looked totally fine without them, and look totally fine with them – it's just personal taste, and an extremely personal choice."

> "I PRETEND TO BE OUTGOING, BUT I'M UNCOMFORTABLE IN LARGE CROWDS. I'M A HERMITTY HOMESTEADER OF A GIRL WHO'S MOST AT PEACE IN THE GARDEN"

However, Kato felt compelled to make my breast augmentation a topic for public discussion after some stolen 'before' and 'after' photos started floating around the internet. "I didn't want to unintentionally encourage other girls to go for it, as it's a procedure that should only be undertaken for the right reasons," she counsels. "It's better to make peace with the body you have than to hope cosmetic surgery will fix your self-esteem. Once you can love yourself the way you are, you're in the right place to do what the hell you want and have the happiest results."

Kato's figure has now been made into an action figure, after a Chinese company asked to license her likeness and a particular outfit she made in 2009. "I've received a lot of snaps of people's Kato dolls arranged in 'creative' positions with their Lara Croft figures…" she grins, eyebrow raised. "A Steamgirl figure based on my erotic persona and my own concept art is also in the works, as well as a graphic novel. Amazingly, Disney / Pixar legend Kent Melton, who made maquettes for *The Lion King*, *The Incredibles* and *Aladdin*, crafted a sculpture using my drawings, and two master figures are currently being painted in Los Angeles by Kat Sapene (whose first paid job was to paint Slimer from *Ghostbusters*!). Dark Horse Comics has secured first dibs on manufacture and distribution, so watch this space…"

STEAM ME UP, SCOTTIE

It's not only dolls that are being made to resemble Kato. Recently, her assistant ran a 'Kato Cosplay' competition, encouraging people to recreate their favourite Kato shot to win the chance to be flown to Oregon to model the new Steampunk Couture collection. "The winner, Rin, had barely any experience in front of the camera, but she blew my woolly socks off!" Kato beams. "I asked her if she'd like to pose for Steamgirl.com too, →

and now she's one of the most popular models on the site. Katsuni is the most hilarious member of Team Steamgirl, though; she's a French-Vietnamese porn star who was a hoot to shoot with. She's just invited me to Paris for a couple of months to steampunk-up an apartment she owns there."

> **"A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR IS THE MOST ATTRACTIVE QUALITY A PERSON CAN HAVE. I'M A BIG FAN OF ROSS NOBLE AND EDDIE IZZARD"**

The elaborate period backdrops and sets seen on Steamgirl.com are all crafted by Kato's own fair (slightly scratched, unicorn-plastered) hand. "My favourite piece of furniture is probably my bookcase," she muses. "I fell in love with a super-ornate one but it was absurdly priced, so I replicated it for a fraction of the cost, building in fake antique book spines to hide my ugly modern novels and integrating those with some lovely vintage hardbacks I found in a thrift store."

While Kato likes to play 1920s jazz during shoots to create the atmosphere of a burlesque show, her DIY and sewing sessions are soundtracked by Professor Elemental – chap hop musician, former star of the Bizarre Balls and singer of such comical ditties as 'Fighting Trousers'.

"I was raised on a strict diet of tea and Monty Python and have learned from experience that laughter is a fantastic and extremely fast-working cure-all remedy for all sorts of ills," she advises. "A good sense of humour is the single most attractive quality a person can have. I listen to *Live At The Apollo* playlists on YouTube while working, and am a big fan of Ross Noble and Eddie Izzard. You have to have a sense of humour if you do a lot of social media or online interaction, I reckon; some of the elaborate bullshit stories posted about me on the web by keyboard warrior trolls border on the insane!"

Despite their delightfully dirty leanings, Kato believes that the most pleasant online manners are exhibited on BDSM and kink networking sites. "I love Fetlife.com," she says. "It's such a friendly, civil social network, and everyone is such a polite sweetheart – it's a breath of fresh air compared to some of the tripe people can post on Facebook." *Bizarre* wholeheartedly agrees – we wonder how cyberbullies and WWWankers sleep at night. Speaking of which – Kato says that when she sleeps, she has "incredibly vivid doomsday and extraterrestrial encounter dreams all the goddamn time! The spooky part is that I don't spend time theorising about end-of-the-world prophecies or UFOs, so I have no idea where these visions come from!" We're taking that as proof that Kato isn't from this planet after all. Maybe this goddess is from Venus? We're giving her a new nickname: The Venus Eye Trap. Just try looking away.

Buy Kato's bitchin' stitchin' at SteampunkCouture.com, and ogle through your goggles at delicious pics of Kato and her delicious friends at SteamGirl.com. You can also find Kato on Facebook, at Facebook.com/Steampunkato

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& JUMPED FROM THE 160FT PLATFORM

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KATO

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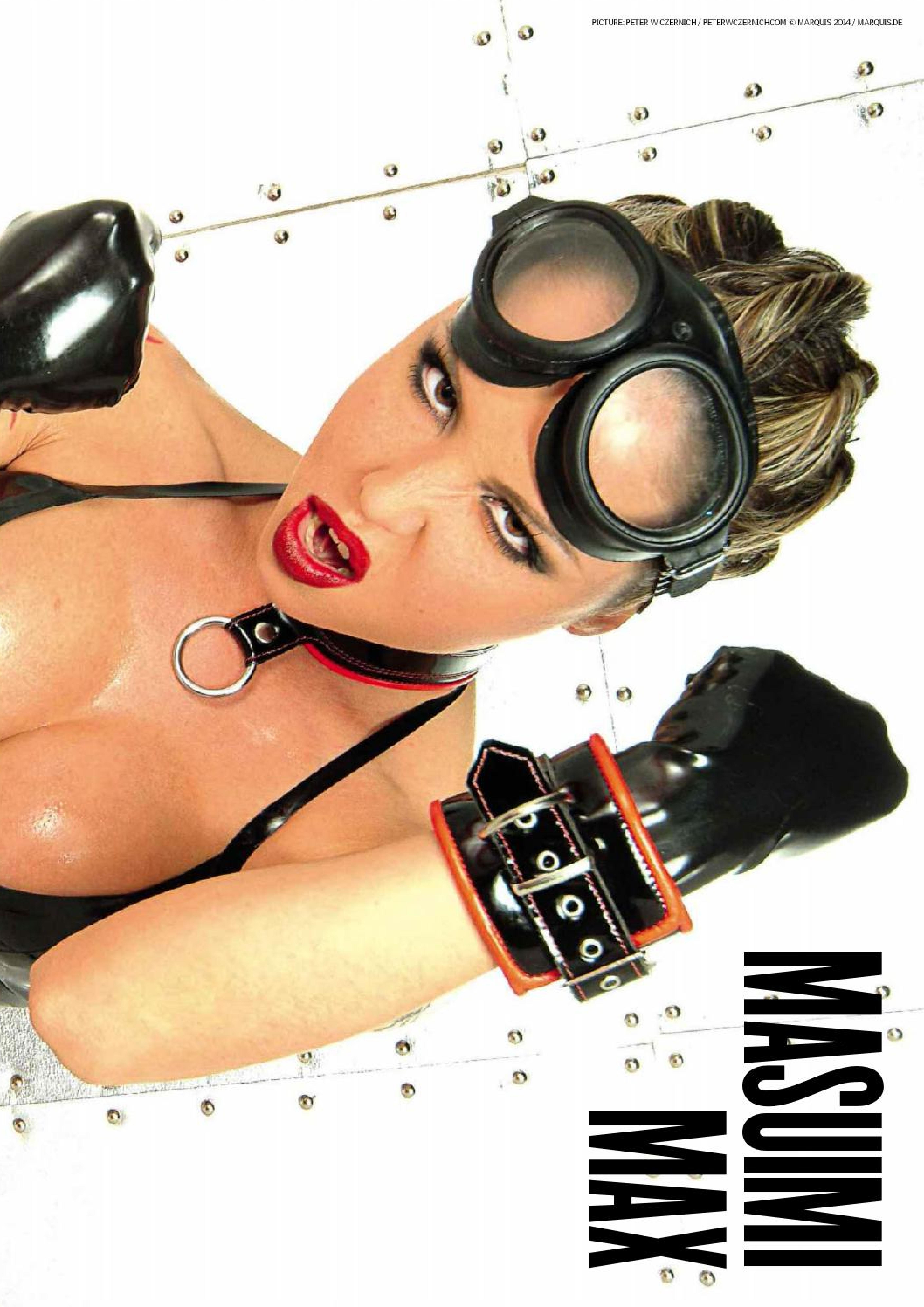

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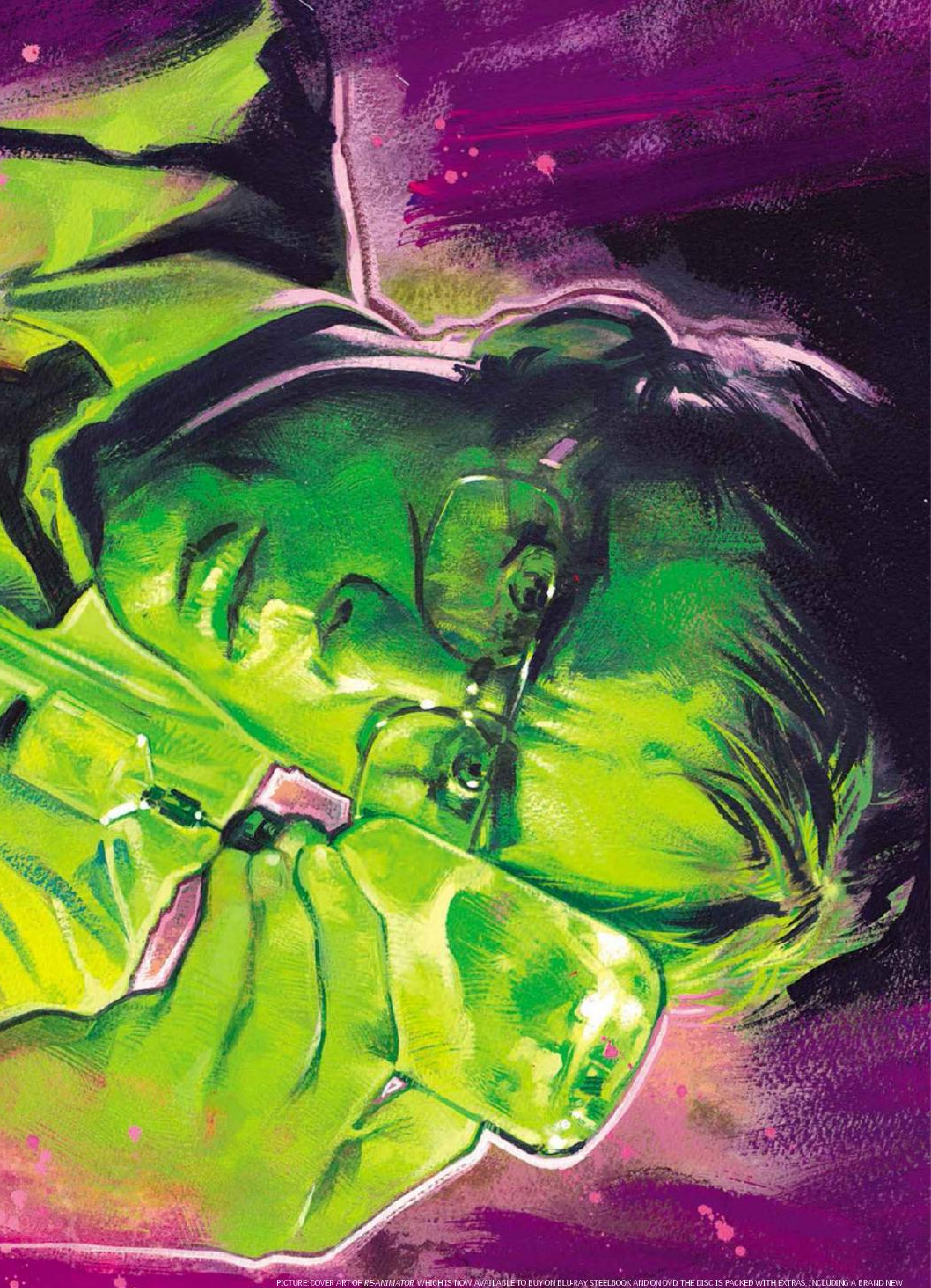

PICTURE: COVER ART OF *RE-ANIMATOR*, WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE TO BUY ON BLU-RAY STEELBOOK AND ON DVD. THE DISC IS PACKED WITH EXTRAS, INCLUDING A BRAND NEW 4K RESTORATION OF THE FILM, AUDIO COMMENTARIES, *RE-ANIMATOR RESURRECTUS* DOCUMENTARY, EXTENDED / DELETED SCENES AND INTERVIEWS. VISIT SECONDSIGHTFILMS.CO.UK

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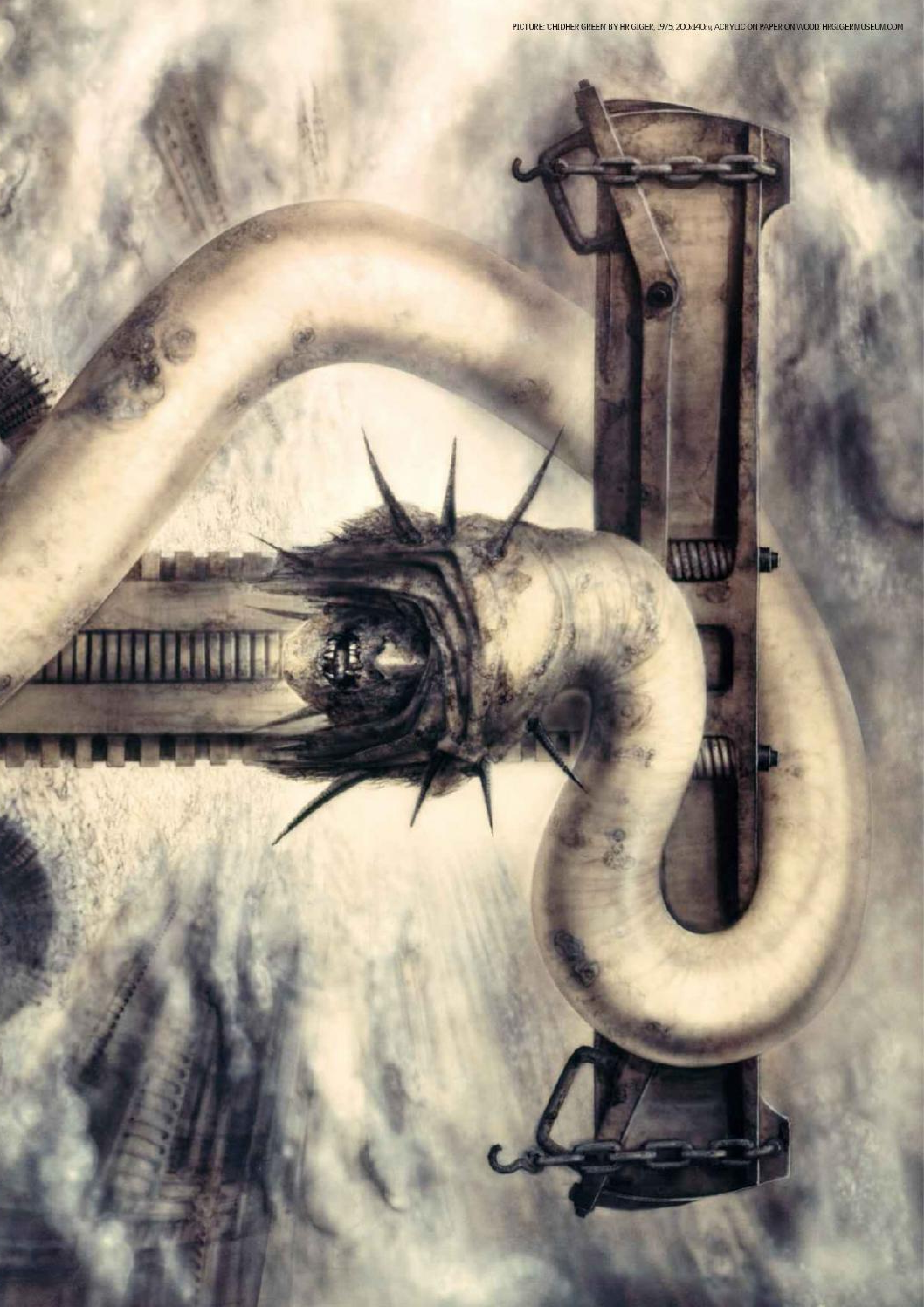

PICTURE: 'CHIDHER GREEN' BY HR GIGER, 1975, 200x140cm, ACRYLIC ON PAPER ON WOOD. HRGIGERMUSEUM.COM

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TALES FROM THE

“Dr Carl Hill is desperate to make love to this girl, but his head has been hacked off – so what's he going to do?” asks *Re-Animator* director Stuart Gordon, reminiscing about his film's attempted rape scene featuring a, er… severed head. “We thought about it. Then my co-writer, Dennis Paoli, called me in the night, bellowing with laughter, declaring ‘I've just come up with the world's first visual pun!’ And so the ‘head giving head’ scene was born.”

The 1980s was a boom time for gory, outrageous horror, and *Re-Animator* was one of the period's most notorious flicks. A modern day adaptation of the HP Lovecraft short story *Herbert West: Re-Animator*, it tells the tale of a twisted medical genius who develops a serum for reanimating corpses. The film features luminous green potions being injected into brains, naked corpses running amok in a hospital morgue and, yup, decapitated heads vying to eat pussy. Suffice to say, everyone bar the censors thought *Re-Animator* was awesome.

“When the movie opened in LA in 1985, I was walking in late behind this guy who was carrying a big tub of popcorn, and he opened the door just as a character's eyes popped out of his head,” says Gordon. “This guy freaked out and we all got showered with popcorn. At that moment I thought, ‘Alright! This film is *really* working!’”

RE-ANIMATING RE-ANIMATOR

It's been almost 30 years since *Re-Animator* was first unleashed on unwitting gorehounds, and it remains one of the finest – if not *the* finest – HP Lovecraft movie adaptation of all time. Grisly and demented, *Re-Animator* was Stuart Gordon's first feature film, and it built on the controversial reputation he'd forged as a stage director, where he often locked audiences inside theatres and kept them captive until a riot kicked off.

But how did this medical-themed monstrosity get to rear its ugly, misshapen head? To find out, we have to take a trip back to the early 1980s…

Around this time Gordon began to express an interest in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, telling friends that this Gothic tale would make a great

WORDS
STEPHEN DAULTREY

MORGUE

From rampaging naked corpses to randy severed heads, *Re-Animator* remains one of the finest, most lurid examples of 1980s body horror cinema. Now, almost 30 years after it was made, *Bizarre* speaks to director Stuart Gordon to relive his "distressing and shocking" research trips to the morgue. But beware the Rose Room. You do not want to *smell* the Rose Room…

movie. That was when a friend with a fine knowledge of weird fiction recommended that Gordon track down an obscure Lovecraft tale.

Although *Herbert West: Re-Animator* is now one of Lovecraft's most beloved stories, in the 1980s it had been largely forgotten. Written between October 1921 and June 1922, *Herbert West: Re-Animator* was serialised in *Home Brew*, a magazine aimed at amateur writers, and was one of the first works of fiction to depict zombies as scientifically reanimated corpses that had lost all sense of their human selves.

Lovecraft himself confessed that *Re-Animator* was a parody of Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and also claimed that he thought the story was stupid. So when Gordon's search began, *Herbert West: Re-Animator* had been out of print for decades, and proved to be a bugger to track down.

But he didn't give up. After months of searching, Gordon's located an antiquarian copy in the Chicago Public Library. And as the director had been a Lovecraft fan since his teens, he was blown away by what he'd discovered.

Unlike the movie, Lovecraft's short story is set in the early 1900s. "I thought it was some of the best stuff Lovecraft ever wrote," Gordon says. "It read great, it was action-packed, and it was funny – you don't normally associate humour with Lovecraft!"

Gordon originally worked on adapting the tale as a six-part television serial, but the cost of filming a period piece proved prohibitive. After much nail-nibbling, he decided that the story's futuristic science meant it could be fast-forwarded to the 1980s without any negative impact on its neurological wonders.

"The thing with Lovecraft is that his science is ahead of its time, and is also steeped in reality," Gordon says. "Of the doctors I spoke to when researching the movie, none of them had any problem with the idea of reanimating corpses. One of them said, 'If you talked to anyone 50 years ago, they'd say someone was dead if their heart stopped. But today we can bring people back to life with defibrillation or drugs to get their heart started again. So why not do the same for the brain?'

"In my film the window for bringing someone back from the dead is six to 12 minutes. But →

RESTRICTED AREA

> “WE SPRAY-PAINTED AN ACTOR’S PENIS BLACK. PEOPLE ASKED US AFTERWARDS IF YOUR PENIS TURNS BLACK WHEN YOU DIE, LIKE A BANANA!” STUART GORDON

if you look at the scientific strides made today, somebody could be dead for several hours and still potentially be revived.”

Gordon wrote an early *Re-Animator* script with Paoli and William J Norris, which introduced the chisel-jawed narrator Dan Cain (Bruce Abbott), someone audience members would like and identify with. Herbert West was penned to be obnoxious, devious and obsessed (ably portrayed by Jeffrey Combs), while the lecherous Dr Carl Hill, played by the late David Gale, became the villain.

Gordon and his team also introduced a zombified university dean (Robert Sampson), who provides bizarre comedy as he struggles to rediscover his human side. But the script’s most radical move was the introduction of a female character, Megan Halsey (Barbara Crampton), who was Cain’s love interest.

“Lovecraft rarely wrote about female characters, so she was somebody we had to create,” reveals Gordon. “We added her to bring a female perspective to the script, and also add a little sex appeal. If you’re doing a horror movie you’ve got to have someone who can scream, right? Plus there’s always that scene in every horror movie where the monster is carrying off the beautiful young woman into the night…”

I SEE DEAD PEOPLE…

Eventually the first *Re-Animator* script fell into the hands of Brian Yuzna, who later directed the sicko satire *Society* (1989) and *Re-Animator* sequel *Bride Of Re-Animator* in 1990. Immediately smitten by the story, Yuzna came on board as producer; but rather than exploring *Re-Animator* as a TV serial, he gave Gordon a $800,000 budget to make a feature-length movie instead. This was a modest sum in an era before CG effects, and the film itself was shot inside a sweat-soaked 18 days. But long before that could happen, Gordon spent weeks visiting morgues and talking to pathologists. And that was where the fun really began…

“I wanted *Re-Animator* to be as realistic as possible, so I put in a *lot* of research,” Gordon confesses “Getting access to the morgues was unbelievably easy. I asked a doctor friend if he thought the pathologists who work in the morgues would talk to me, and he said, ‘Oh my God, they’re the loneliest people in the world! If you wander into a morgue, you’ll make their day.’ And that turned out to be true.”

Gordon’s first port of call was Cook County Morgue where he met Dr Stein (“an older gentleman with a sick sense of humour”). And as Dr Stein gleefully led the inquisitive director into the bowels of his workplace, Gordon found that he was unprepared for what he saw.

“Morgues are *nothing* like the movies, where single bodies are placed in drawers in these neat little shelves,” he recalls. “Instead, it was like a walk-in refrigerator, where all the bodies were stacked on gurneys – sometimes five, maybe six bodies piled on top of each other. The bodies are not treated with any respect. When a person is dead, they’re just toxic waste. Some of the bodies had been in operations and still had tubes sticking out of them. There were dead babies and children too. You like to think only the old die, but that’s not true. The whole thing was very distressing.”

But Gordon’s crash course in macabre science became even more intense. Observing the corpses up close, he discovered that bodies take on different colours depending on the cause of death. “If death is anything to do with the heart, the body is usually red,” he reveals. “If they’ve lost blood, they’re white. If it has to do with the kidneys, it’s yellow. If it’s asphyxiation, they’re blue. Dr Stein also pointed out something known as ‘lividity’, which is where blood settles in parts of the body and turns them deep purple. For the movie we spray-painted the actors that were playing the corpses to recreate this.”

PROD RE ANIMATOR PROD
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2
RE-ANIMATOR
DIR GORDON CAM AHLBERG

Trying to "play it cool" and fighting the urge to vomit amidst "unbearable pungent stenches", Gordon was eventually led down another corridor towards the Rose Room. And while that might sounds like a pleasant contrast to the death and decay he'd just witnessed, it was anything but…

"The Rose Room was where they stored dead people who'd been found several weeks after they'd died," recalls Gordon. "This room was *disgusting*. One body looked like the old Hammer movie where Dracula ends up as a pile of dust; it had the rough shape of a body, but it looked like something you'd pull out of a vacuum cleaner. Another body had been pulled out of the Chicago River and was bloated and disgusting and terrible. And the smell was horrific, which is why the pathologists jokingly called it the Rose Room. Gallows humour is essential if you're doing a job like this – you need it just to survive. But the one thing that zombie movies never get right is how bad death smells!"

COCK AND BALLS-UPS

Although the script for *Re-Animator* was imbued with the gallows humour Gordon picked up on when visiting morgues, plenty of bizarre things happened on set as well.

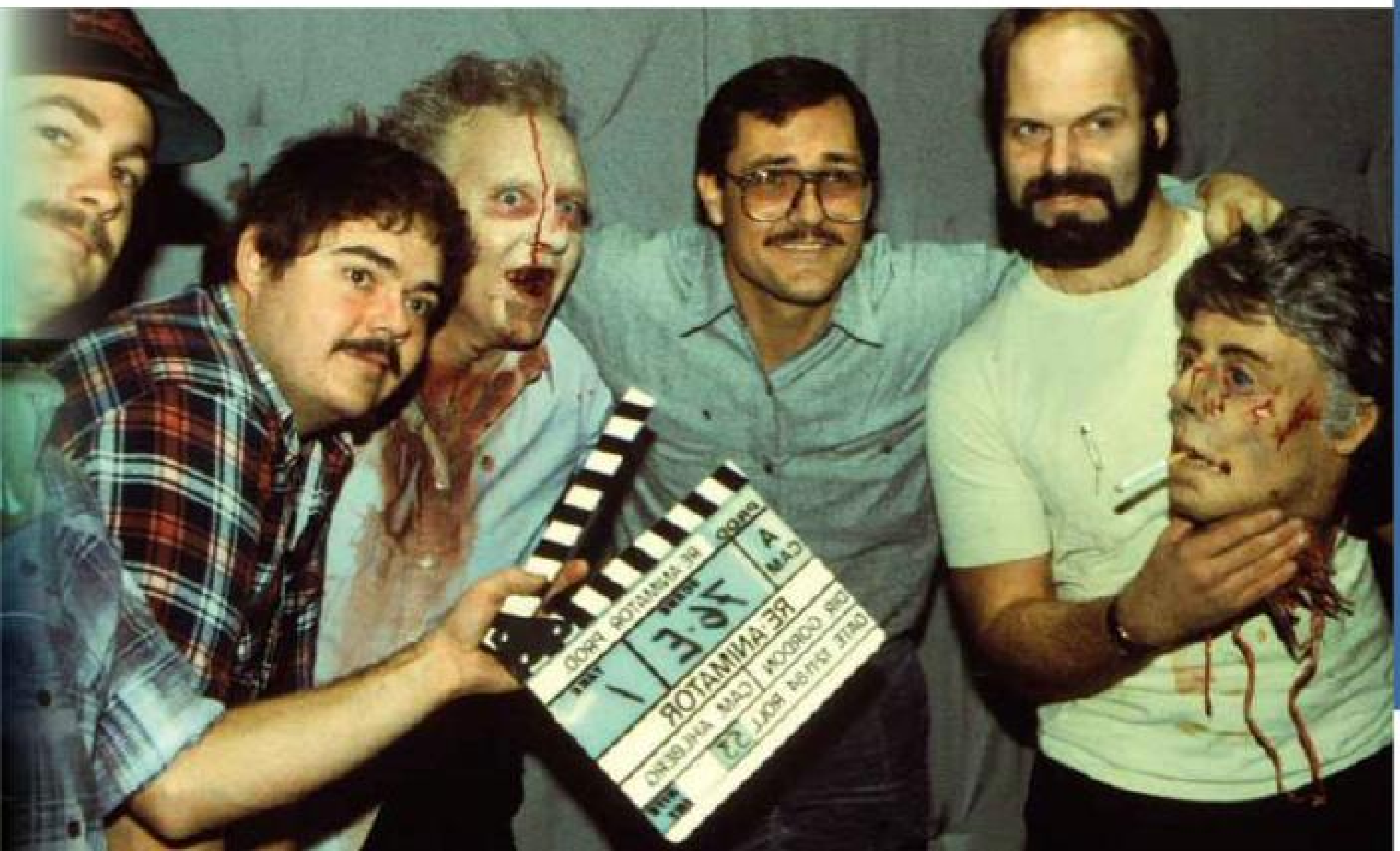
One of the production team's key concerns was securing an 'R' rating (America's adult rating) for the film's release. Naively, Gordon and his crew thought that the biggest issue would not be the film's sickening gore, but the nudity of the male corpses. To get around any stray genitals, Gordon acquired some "pubic toupees" known as merkins, which were designed to conceal cocks from the camera's voyeuristic gaze. Unfortunately, some dipstick chucked the merkins out before they could be used…

"Typically, we had to film this scene where one of the corpses was *extremely* well-endowed," groans Gordon. "The director of cinematography insisted we'd still have to cover him up, so we ended up spray-painting his penis black. People came up to us afterwards asking if that's what really happens when you die – that your penis turns black, just like a banana!"

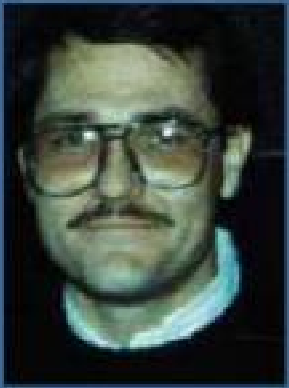
Irrespective of the team's care to cover errant schlongs, *Re-Animator* was refused a rating by censors because of ifs excessive bloodletting; in fact, as the film spilled some 30 gallons of fake gore, it was unofficially the world's bloodiest fright flick until Peter Jackson's *Braindead* rolled up seven years later. British ratings boards were especially unforgiving, and it wasn't until its DVD re-release in 2007 that the 'head giving head' scene was reinserted into the UK cut.

But despite problems with the censors, the outrage sparked by *Re-Animator* was testament to how fine a job Gordon's crew had done with the sets and the splatter.

Set designer Bob Burns duplicated Chicago's County Morgue so accurately that many people thought *Re-Animator* had been shot on location. Elsewhere, to make sure the effects were flawless, Gordon and his effects team endured 10-hour →



TALKING TO BRIAN YUZNA



Cult legend Brian Yuzna recalls his producer role on *Re-Animator*…

Is *Re-Animator* the most important HP Lovecraft movie ever made?
I'd say *Re-Animator* is a great horror movie, but it's not a typical Lovecraft story in the wider sense. When you think of Lovecraft you think of stuff that's just weird, not grisly like this. If it wasn't for *Re-Animator* being such a successful movie, I don't think the original story would enter into Lovecraft discussions much. But it's a really good horror movie, and it's good as it makes other people more interested in Lovecraft. But I would actually say *From Beyond* is more Lovecraftian.

Was the film you made the same as the one you set out to make?
When we began I told Stuart that I wanted it to be really gory, and I didn't want anything to be held back. And I also wanted it to be sexy. I wanted nudity in it. I didn't want it to fail for the sake of faithfulness. Stuart originally wanted to make it in Chicago at his theatre. His idea was to make it in black and white on 16mm in the basement. But my attitude was that I wanted to make a Hollywood movie. I didn't want to make something that was fringe.

How intentional was the comedy?
We never intended to make it funny. Nowadays, people think it was designed as a comedy because it has all this humour – it took Stuart a long time to accept that it's funny! We all enjoyed the absurdity we were creating, and I remember it being a joy to work on. There was always fun and laughter on the set, and we delighted in situations such as the 'head giving head'. Haha! But it wasn't a horror comedy. I still don't think it is.

Were you surprised people were upset by the 'head giving head' scene?
It's fun to see people get outraged. When *Re-Animator* first came out in theatres, some people reacted badly. But horror fans reacted to the fun of it. It's an enjoyable experience. It goes just far enough to take you over the edge, but not too far. It's exhilarating. Most movies can't find that point – but Stuart managed to do it beautifully.

LOVIN' LOVECRAFT

The works of HP Lovecraft have inspired some of cinema's weirdest fright flicks, often with plots about ancient beings threatening to take over the world and men descending into madness. Besides ***Re-Animator***, here are six of the best…

THE CALL OF CTHULHU 2005

Director Andrew Leman

Based on Lovecraft's most famous story – about a plot to reawaken unpleasant ancient beings – *The Call Of Cthulhu* is a black and white silent movie, and clocks in at just 45 minutes. But for sheer atmosphere, it can't be beaten.

DAGON 2001

Director Stuart Gordon

Gordon says it took him years to make *Dagon* because studios thought its plot about people turning into fish was too mental. This film was inspired by the classic Lovecraft story *The Shadow Over Innsmouth*.

FROM BEYOND 1986

Director Stuart Gordon

Made soon after *Re-Animator*, Gordon's second feature flick features meddling scientists trying to break into a parallel universe. Like *Re-Animator*, *From Beyond* is blackly comic and stars Jeffrey Combs and Barbara Crampton.

THE WHISPERER IN DARKNESS 2011

Director Sean Branney

In a similar style to *The Call Of Cthulhu*, this 'unfilmable' tale about an anthropologist investigating strange sightings was shot in black and white, giving it a stylish 1920s atmosphere. Lovecraft purists have been raving about it. And rightly so.

DIE, MONSTER, DIE! 1965

Director Daniel Haller

Die, Monster, Die! stars the late, great Boris Karloff as a wheelchair-bound scientist who makes giant plants using radiation from a meteorite. Unfortunately, his experiments also turn people into monsters. Ups and downs, and all that…

THE DUNWICH HORROR 1970

Director Daniel Haller

Dean Stockwell from *Quantum Leap* stars as a chap called Wilbur who tries to reawaken ancient gods by nabbing the impossibly evil *Necronomicon* book. Features creepy dreams about being chased along misty sea cliffs by inhuman oddballs.

sessions at Yuzna's house where they discussed how to achieve all the gory effects, and analysed each gruesome set-piece in minute detail.

Almost all the SFX in *Re-Animator* were created live, with only minimal use of postproduction. But for Gordon and his team, the biggest challenge were the scenes involving Dr Carl Hill after he has his head sliced off…

"We suddenly have a headless character who's carrying his noggin around for literally half-an-hour of the film," says Gordon. "We realised that we needed to use multiple effects to pull that off. The one that the audience had the most fun with, which comes direct from Lovecraft's original story, was when his character carries around his head in a little valise, in a very polite way, with a wax pate on his shoulders. For the film we used an anatomical medical model for the head, and created a sequence where Dr Hill is carrying his severed dome around inside a medical bag."

Despite compressing the plot, Gordon says they tried to keep the spirit of Lovecraft's story alive as much as possible. However, he admits there were some scenes in the book that were too extreme for celluloid, even during the wild 1980s. "There's one sequence where Herbert reanimates a black boxer," he says. "In the story this guy shows up on West's front porch, running around on all fours like a dog and carrying a baby's arm in his mouth. I knew from the start we couldn't show that! The original story was actually a very shocking tale."

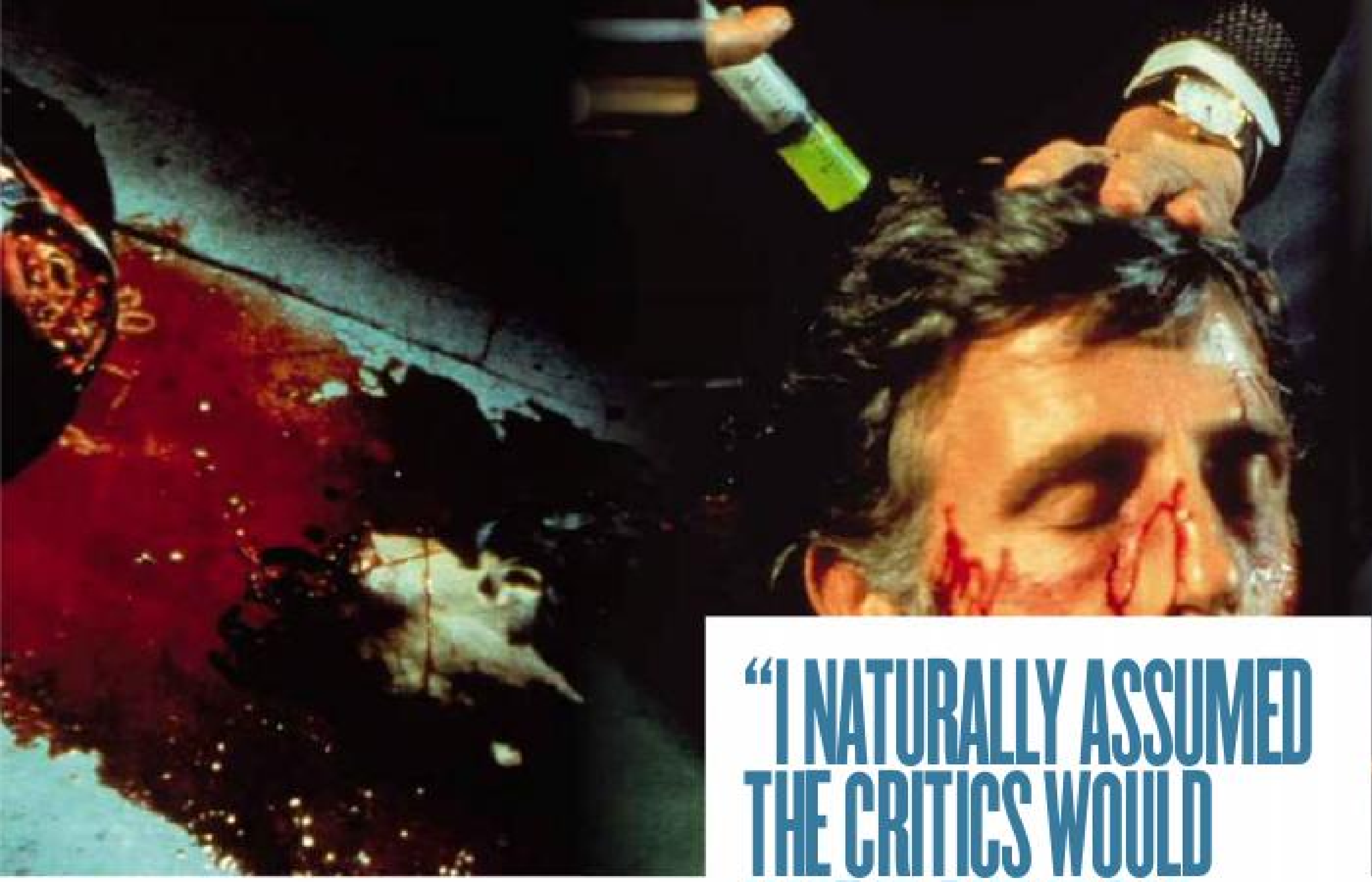
MUSICAL ZOMBIES

Even without an R rating, *Re-Animator* enjoyed an enthusiastic response when it hit cinemas; but it was on VHS that the film really took off. This inspired Yuzna to direct a sequel, *Bride Of Re-Animator*, in 1990, which revived the same characters, and he also made a second sequel, *Beyond Re-Animator*, in 2001. But for Gordon, what was most astonishing was that critics were unanimous in their praise for *Re-Animator*, which was unique in the horror genre.

"I assumed the critics would hate it, and so I didn't worry about them, and I guess that was kind of the key to it, looking back," says Gordon. "It was legendary film critic Roger Ebert who initially championed the film, and then we got incredible reviews from Pauline Kael, Janet Maslin and so forth. Suddenly, *Re-Animator* became this darling of the critics. It was unheard of for a horror film, and it completely astonished me. I wasn't ready for that!"

The legacy of *Re-Animator* lives on today, and not just in its souped-up Blu-ray editions. In 2011 it was adapted for the stage by Mark Nutter, and saw fake blood being splashed over the front rows for a gruesomely interactive experience. *Re-Animator: The Musical* played at the Edinburgh Festival in 2012, and enjoyed a run at the Steve Allen Theater in Los Angeles. And as a director who cut his teeth with contentious live performances, Gordon thinks there's something about the horror genre that lends itself remarkably well to the stage.

Karo
corn syrup



"You could write a really good essay about horror-based musicals, going all the way back to *Sweeney Todd* and *The Little Shop Of Horrors*, even *The Phantom Of The Opera*," he says. "I think horror lends itself to musicals because its emotions are larger than life. The *Re-Animator* musical is funnier than the movie. Mark Nutter composed these twisted, heavy songs which he described as a cross between Gilbert and Sullivan and American singer-songwriter Tom Lehrer."

LOVE ETERNAL FOR LOVECRAFT

After *Re-Animator*, Gordon's love affair with the macabre writings of HP Lovecraft didn't abate. In 1986 the director adapted another Lovecraft horror, *From Beyond,* for the big screen, which sees scientists cracking a hole into another dimension and being turned into shape-shifting monsters. He also filmed *Dreams In The Witch House* for the TV series *Masters Of Horror* in 2005, and has recently been collaborating with Dennis Paoloi on an adaptation of *The Thing On The Doorstep*, although this project has been trapped in development hell for several years.

But *Bizarre*'s favourite of Gordon's Lovecraftian ventures besides *Re-Animator* – an opinion based on the fact the film is so damned weird and, er… fishy – was *Dagon* in 2001. Set in a small Spanish fishing community, it was inspired by Lovecraft's classic tale *The Shadow Over Innsmouth* – and you can hear the excitement on Gordon's lips when we mention that watery oddity.

> "I NATURALLY ASSUMED THE CRITICS WOULD HATE IT, BUT IT GOT INCREDIBLE REVIEWS. IT WAS COMPLETELY UNHEARD OF FOR A HORROR FILM" STUART GORDON

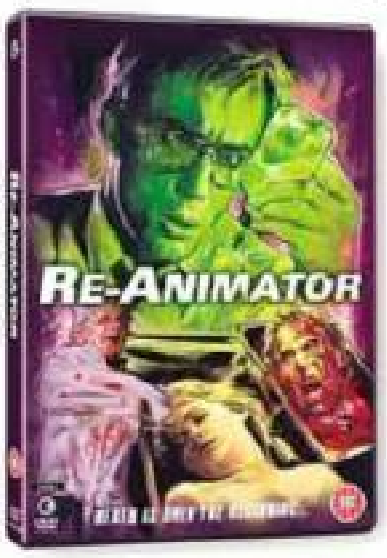
"It took 15 years to get *Dagon* made," he reveals, nostalgically. "The studios couldn't get their heads around the idea of people turning into fish. One of them said to me, 'Make it werewolves instead then we'll do the movie.' But the idea is so wonderful, this backwards evolution, that I couldn't imagine not doing it the way Lovecraft intended."

It's often been said that HP Lovecraft's ideas are unfilmable, but the success of Gordon's work – plus other cult films such as John Carpenter's *In The Mouth Of Madness* (1994) and Andrew Leman's inventive black & white take on *The Call Of Cthulhu* (2005) – show that Lovecraft *can* work on the big screen. You just need bags of imagination, an eye for the right story, and a sick sense of humour…

"Some of Lovecraft's stories would be hard to adapt, sure, but many of them would make great films," says Gordon. "There's a whole scene around Lovecraft now, and the HP Lovecraft Film Festival has become a major attraction for horror fans. Every year there are dozens of films based on his stories."

But, for Gordon, it's not just the movies being made that is cause for celebration, but the fact that HP Lovecraft is finally getting the recognition his macabre fiction deserves. In 2014, New England's favourite son has become more than a geeky writer whose work is limited to the science-fiction section.

"It's great that Lovecraft is finally considered proper literature, and that there are these new printings of his stories that put him right up there with Edgar Allan Poe," says Gordon. "I think Stephen King said he was the greatest horror writer of the 20th century. And you really can't say fairer than that…"



Re-Animator is available to buy on Blu-ray Steelbook and on DVD packed with extras, including a brand new 4K restoration of the film, audio commentaries, *Re-Animator Resurrectus* documentary, extended / deleted scenes and interviews. Visit Secondsightfilms.co.uk

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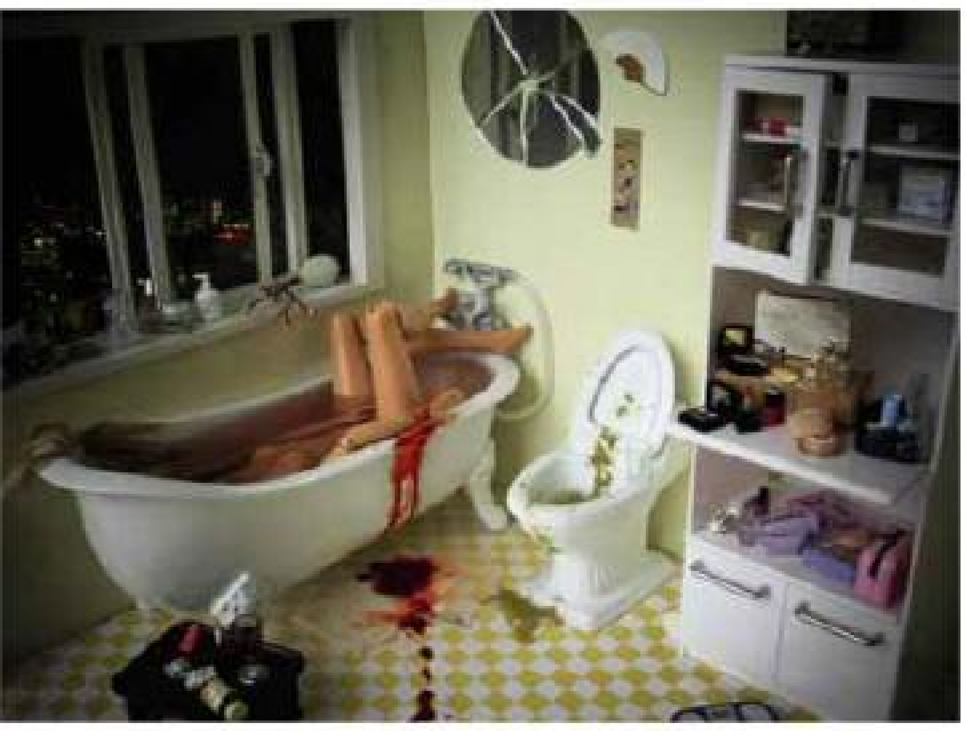
PICTURES
MARIEL CLAYTON

BARBIE'S REVENGE!

If you thought Barbie was an outdated cliché of feminity, think again. In the hands of photographer **Mariel Clayton**, Mattel's plastic princess becomes a kick-ass psycho! →



It's every kid's worst nightmare: Barbie transforming into a bloodthirsty killer, spinning Ken's decapitated head in a washing machine, then grinning as her baby spears the lifeless torso with random kitchen utensils picked off the floor while hunting for jelly beans.

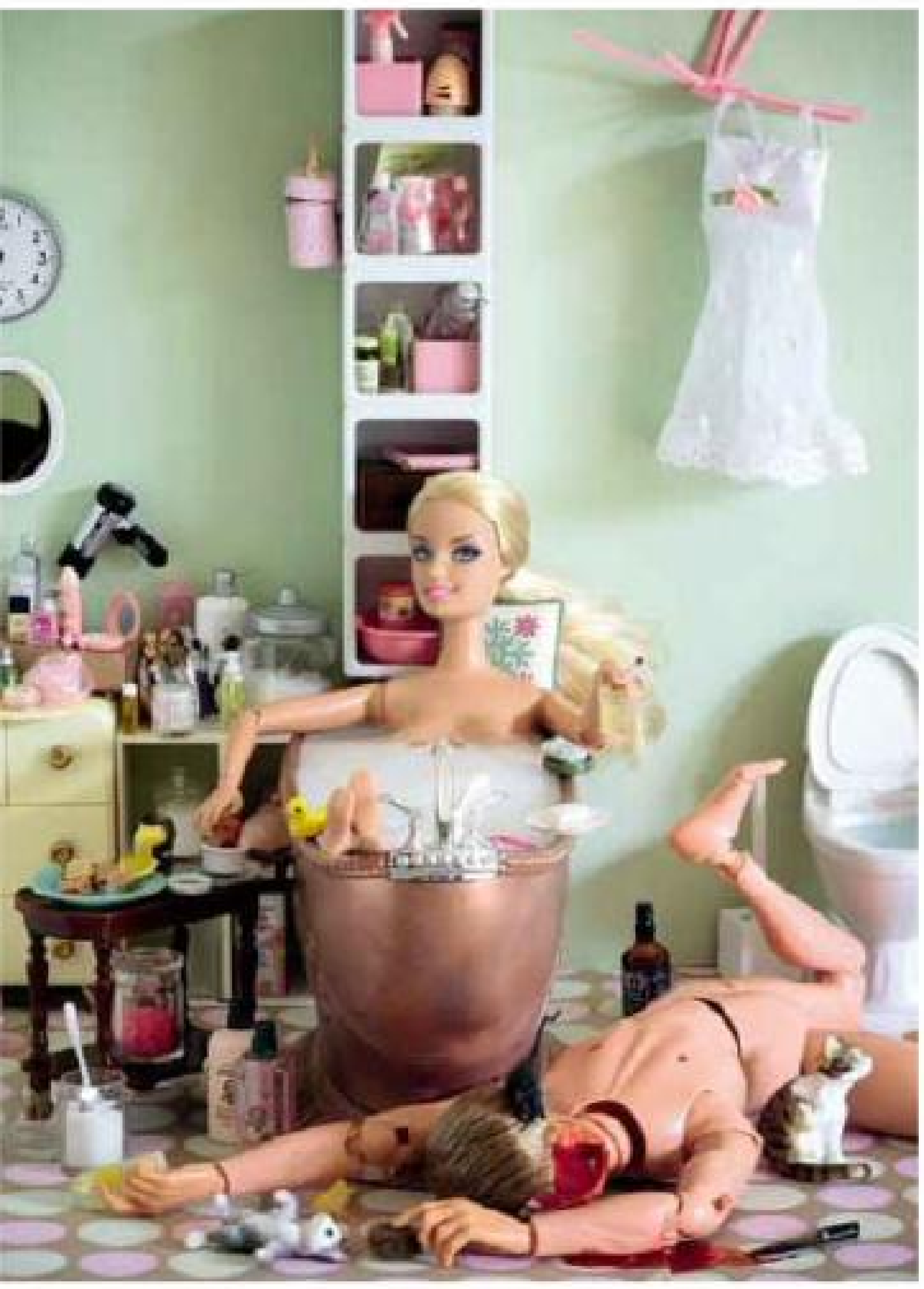
This chilling scene of domestic depravity may sound like Rob Zombie remaking *Toy Story*, but it's actually the deliciously gratuitous, playfully absurd and stereotype-bashing art of Mariel Clayton. And *Bizarre* loves it.

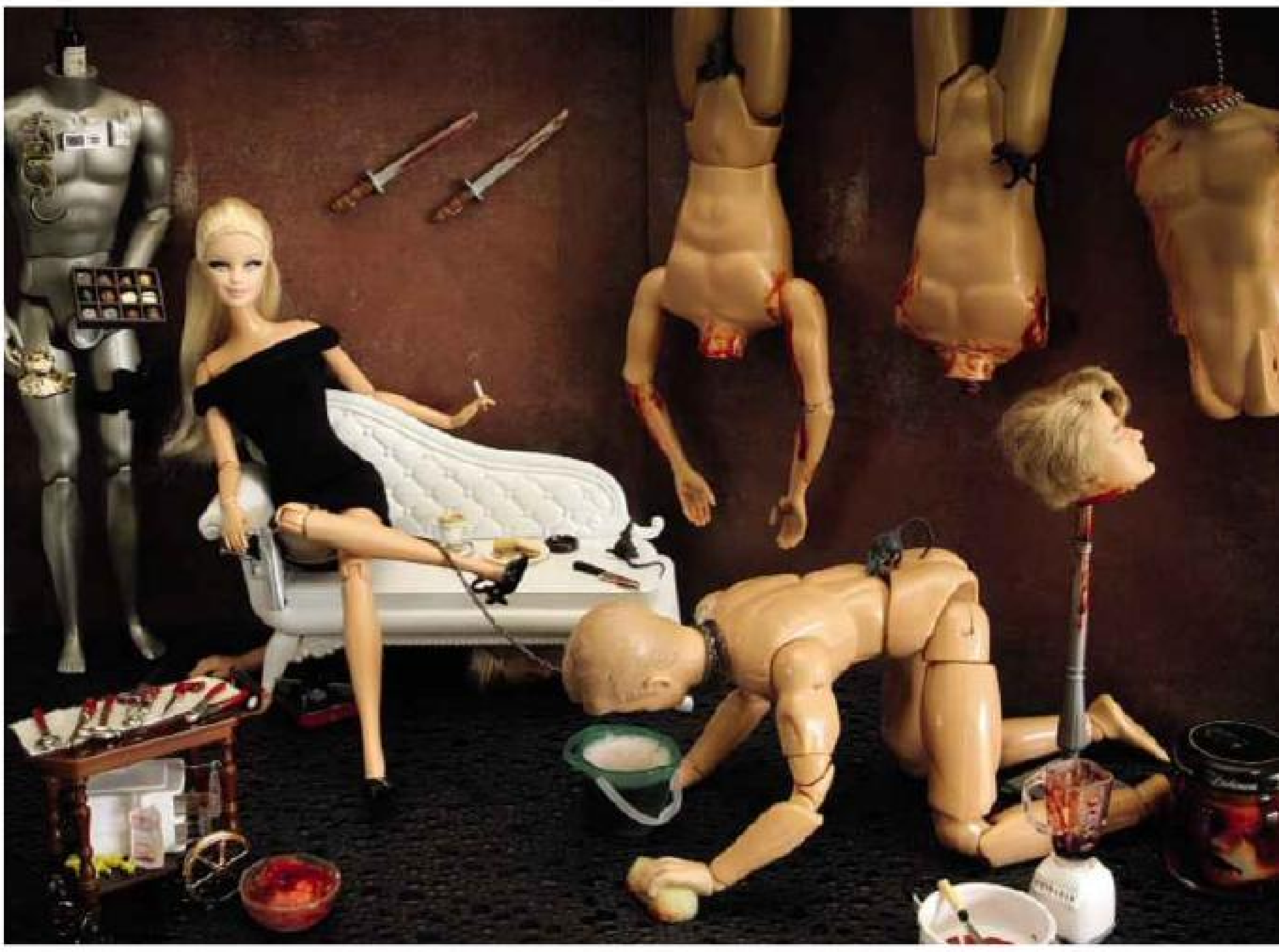
The 34-year-old artist, who was born in South Africa but currently lives in Canada, began creating and photographing sick dioramas using Mattel's Barbie dolls back in 2009, having previously played around with colourful Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles toys. But it wasn't until she created a blackly comic scene involving a tragic Barbie suicide that the darker recesses of her imagination were sparked into overdrive.

"The first macabre picture I did was called 'Happily Ever After', which showed Barbie dead in a bathtub after slitting her wrists," she says. "The caption said that, after years of Barbie binging, purging and having boob jobs, Ken had left her for a male lover – which struck me as rather funny at the time! I showed the photograph to a few people, who all loved it, and that gave my brain license to experiment with more ideas and scenes."

Since then the fake gore hasn't stopped flowing. In one of Clayton's most famous scenes, severed doll heads are seen swimming in a bath of blood while Barbie grins at the camera. In another, a dominant Barbie sits on a chaise longue with a row of headless male dolls suspended from the ceiling behind her, while she forces a Ken doll to scrub the floor. It's proper plasticated torture porn.

Clayton says the series was born from her contempt for Barbie as a stick-thin, big-boobed





> **"THE OVERALL CONCEPT WAS TO TAKE A WELL-KNOWN, MASS-MARKETED IMAGE OF FEMINITY AND TURN IT COMPLETELY ON ITS HEAD"** MARIEL CLAYTON

female stereotype, which was created in the late 1950s as a role model for young girls.

"The overall concept of the series was to take a well-known, mass-marketed image of femininity and turn it on its head," Clayton explains. "Barbie is touted as being the ideal role model for girls. But this demure, saccharine-sweet, non-confrontational, hyper-feminised and fetishised object of adoration has nothing to do with reality."

BEWARE THE BABY BOILER

Clayton says that most of her macabre creations don't have a specific message beyond looking "absurd", but there are exceptions. For example, in one provocative scene Barbie is seen boiling a baby in a cooking pot, and Clayton says this is expressing her views towards animal cruelty.

"With this image I was protesting against the practice of shark finning and using rhino horns and bear bile in Chinese traditional medicines," she says. "Just because something is 'traditional' doesn't mean it's good or necessary – especially when the existence of a species hangs in the balance. Many practices can be labelled as 'traditional', such as cannibalism, but does that mean they should be accepted?"

Many of Clayton's dioramas are also inspired by real-life crimes. But while you might expect her inspiration to come from notorious killers such as Jeffrey Dahmer and Dennis Nilsen – two loners who collected their victims' body parts and created twisted scenes of domestic bliss – the crimes that got Clayton's mind buzzing happened closer to home.

In key images Clayton's work references the 2001 Soham murders, where secondary school caretaker Ian Huntley murdered two 10-year-old girls, and the recent death of 'Baby P' in London, who died after enduring extensive abuse from his mother and her boyfriend.

"These cases were extremely difficult to explore because I was trying to treat the subject matter respectfully," she says. "But, at the same time, I wanted my photos to be as visceral as possible. I also produced an image based on the crimes of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka, a couple who were convicted of murdering schoolgirls in Canada in the 1990s."

FATAL ATTRACTIONS

But while Clayton clearly delights in allowing her imagination to run wild and come up with all manner of gory situations, her biggest thrills come from seeing how people react to her work.

"Peoples' responses to what they see are intriguing," she says. "Almost everyone knows the Barbie brand and what the doll represents. And by using Barbie in my work, whatever message I'm trying to convey has much more impact and meaning. Lots of my gory, macabre 'Barbie killing Ken' shots are just a bit of black humour. But when I'm trying to convey a specific message, the presence of a Barbie doll helps make it more potent."

Not surprisingly, reactions to Clayton's work have been extreme, and she claims to have had everything from proclamations of love to people wanting to throttle her to death. But, overall, people dig her work and appreciate the dark, warped humour.

"I've had around seven marriage proposals so far, and about 80 death threats," she reveals. "But, for the most part, reactions to my work are positive. Most people *get* what I'm doing and can appreciate the humour. Every now and then I get some vituperative abuse and offers to pray for me. I was even

→

kicked off Facebook for posting pictures with a sexual theme. I responded by creating a piece that used an entire tube of fake blood, to show how hypocritical it is that gore and violence are deemed acceptable by Facebook, but sexual images are forbidden. Fortunately, there are more people out there with black senses of humour than bibles…"

THE NEIGHBOURS SAID SHE WAS A QUIET GIRL…

Despite the gruesome plights suffered by her male dolls, Clayton isn't a nutjob who hates men. In fact, she's rather nice…

"My sense of humour – and, in some cases, my outrage – are reflected in my work, but in reality I'm thoughtful, reasoned and considerate," she says. "There's not much to be gleaned about who I am from the content of my work. I'm not a man hater. Some of my best friends are men! I'm even in a relationship with one – and he still has all his fun and happy organs intact."

So far Clayton's twisted photographs have been exhibited in galleries in New Jersey, Brazil and Paris, but unfortunately the original dioramas are long gone; Clayton's depictions of sickening doll-on-doll violence only stay built for as long as she needs to shoot them, and then they're taken down and packed away. But for those interested in her work, Clayton sells small prints for between $60-$80 (£32-£43), depending on the edition number, and larger prints for about $400 (£220). She also takes commissions, but admits she only does this on rare occasions.

"Commissions can be limiting in terms of creativity, but every now and then there will be a project that pushes me in a new direction," she says. "For example, for two years in a row I was asked to create promotional pieces for an Italian Dance Troupe – Teatro Pubblico Pugliese – taking inspiration from modern dances and choreographers. I really enjoyed doing that!"

Want to see more of killer Barbie in action? Then visit Mariel's website ThePhotographyMarielClayton.com, and her gallery site at 5PiecesGalleryPhoto.com/category/photography-mariel-clayton. And if that isn't enough to satisfy your sick desires, check out her Flickr page at Flickr.com/photos/marielclayton/sets

> **"I'M NOT A MAN HATER. SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE MEN! I'M EVEN IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE, AND HE STILL HAS ALL HIS FUN AND HAPPY ORGANS INTACT"** MARIEL CLAYTON

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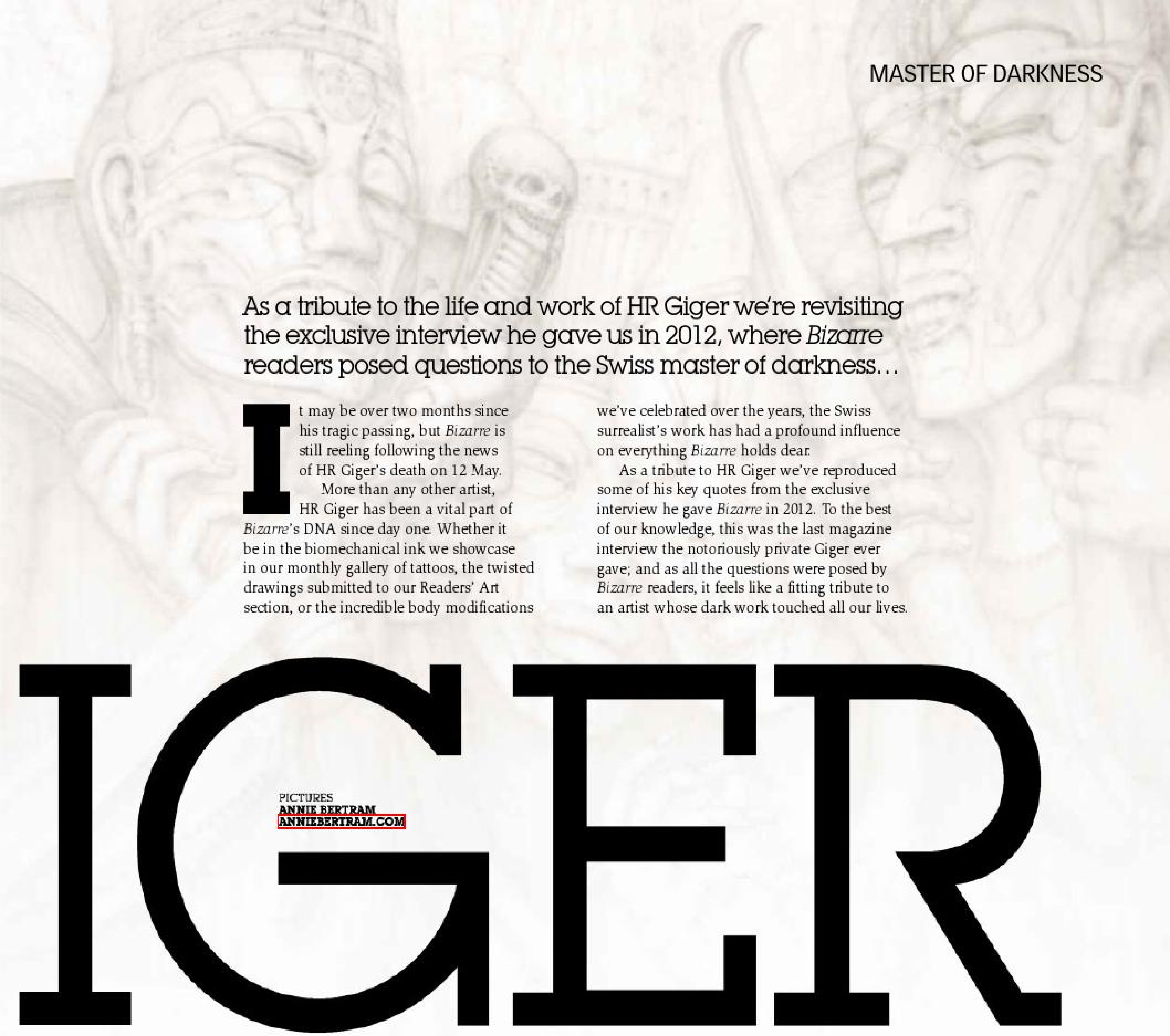
HR Giger at home,
Working on a sketch

HR G

THE LAST INTERVIEW



THIS PAGE (background): 'The Witnesses', 1988, 100x70cm, acrylic on paper on Wood

IGER

As a tribute to the life and work of HR Giger we're revisiting the exclusive interview he gave us in 2012, where *Bizarre* readers posed questions to the Swiss master of darkness…

PICTURES
ANNIE BERTRAM
ANNIEBERTRAM.COM

It may be over two months since his tragic passing, but *Bizarre* is still reeling following the news of HR Giger's death on 12 May.

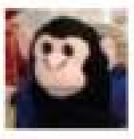
More than any other artist, HR Giger has been a vital part of *Bizarre*'s DNA since day one. Whether it be in the biomechanical ink we showcase in our monthly gallery of tattoos, the twisted drawings submitted to our Readers' Art section, or the incredible body modifications we've celebrated over the years, the Swiss surrealist's work has had a profound influence on everything *Bizarre* holds dear.

As a tribute to HR Giger we've reproduced some of his key quotes from the exclusive interview he gave *Bizarre* in 2012. To the best of our knowledge, this was the last magazine interview the notoriously private Giger ever gave; and as all the questions were posed by *Bizarre* readers, it feels like a fitting tribute to an artist whose dark work touched all our lives.

If *Alien* had never happened, where do you think you'd be today? Would your career have taken a different direction?
Francis Mayhew, via email

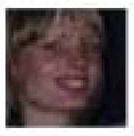
“Yes, my career certainly would have taken a different direction. *Alien* introduced my work to a global audience. And, of course, my designs for *Alien* conveyed features which are distinguishing for my work, such as the biomechanical elements, the lack of eyes, and other things.

During my early days, hardly anybody supported my work. At times, this felt quite disheartening. State institutions or cultural organisations, for example, dismissed me as a serious artist. The success of *Alien*, and the Academy Award for my creations, began to change such negative perceptions of my work, at least in the eyes of the film's audience.”



In the modern world mechanical implants are becoming more and more common, and we're edging towards a time where your biomechanical visions are becoming a reality. Does this evolution of the human form trouble you?
Robert Stewart, via email

“There are many aspects related to the modern world and modern technology which fascinate me incessantly. On the other hand, I feel quite dejected about how human behaviour and egotism, not least in connection with technological advances, have affected the planet in the modern world. Unfortunately, it seems inconceivable to most people to even consider a more spiritual and measured approach to progress and modernity.”



I've heard that you live in an amazing house! Can you describe what the home of HR Giger is like? I may be wrong, but I've heard it contains special corridors that allow you to feel as if you're 'outside', but which are enclosed and allow you to remain inside the comfort of your home. If this is true, was this inspired by your childhood, where you used to make a playroom in the darkest corners of your family home, under a table?
Sharon Hamper, via email

“My house is simply a very personal space where both the results of my work and presents from visitors have accumulated over the decades. It is probably a bit chaotic at times, but in many →

ways it resembles nature when left to spread without any human encumbrance and limitation, which is also something that intrigues me.

I moved into one small unit of a four-unit townhouse in the early 1970s. That's where I set up my workshop, in which I would create my airbrush paintings. Later, I was able to acquire two adjacent units, which we subsequently connected to the first one by breaking doorways through the walls. There are no special corridors or a black room, but substantial portions of the house are painted black and contain various pieces of my art.

The backyard features my large Zodiac Fountain and the tracks and machinery of my ghost train, but has otherwise been left as nature saw fit for many years. The tracks of the ghost train run from the backyard into the house and out again. Before it had all become overgrown, it was therefore possible to ride the train from the backyard through the house.

My house and backyard are not publicly accessible. They are private places, and we don't invite visitors. I am a very private person, and it is important to me that this is respected. ”

> “I FIND IT HUGELY SATISFYING THAT SOME OF MY DESIGNS HAVE ATTAINED SUCH AN INCREDIBLE LEVEL OF POPULARITY”

Your influence on the world of tattoos if profound. How does it feel when you see your work inked on another human's skin? Do you think your work suits body art? Stephen Thompson, via email

“ Whenever I am at the Museum HR Giger in Gruyères, Switzerland, people will inevitably come up to me to show me their Giger tattoos. I feel very flattered when people make the decision to embellish their skin with my work, for life. It is, of course, nice to see something like that done by a talented tattooist who is capable of transferring the original art to the skin in a truly adequate manner. ”

If *Alien* hadn't made you famous, do you think you'd have been more readily embraced by the art world? Do you feel you've been isolated from the art world as you've won an Academy Award? Would you like to be part of the established art world, or are you happy to be an outsider? Peter Luney, via email

“ That might indeed be true, at least for some circles of the art establishment. On the other hand, *Alien* has opened so many doors for me which otherwise would have remained closed. There are a few things I would still be very happy to see, however, such as an exhibition of my art in the Kunsthaus Zürich, the art museum in my hometown of Zurich, Switzerland.

But, in general, I feel very blessed by the popularity and acceptance my work has achieved all over the world. There have been major changes in the way it is being perceived. Since 2004, for example, my art has been exhibited in Austria, Germany, Finland, France, Switzerland, Spain, Norway, and many other countries. ”

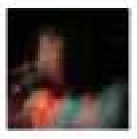
You've collected many strange things in your life – my favourite story was about your collection of trouser-brace fasteners. Do you collect anything strange today? What is the strangest thing you've ever collected? Adrian White, via email

“ I suppose one could say that my entire house consists of all sorts of collected items and gifts. There are so many things that it is sometimes hard to get from room to room. This includes mainly art and books, but also other curiosities brought to me by friends and acquaintances from all over the world. There is a shrunken head, for example. And I am fascinated by anything that has to do with bones.

A significant part of my art collection, including some unusual pieces, is displayed on the top floor of my museum in Gruyères, Switzerland. ”

September 2012

At home with HR Giger



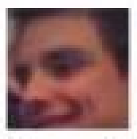
In the book *HR Giger ARh+*, you speak of a story your mother used to tell about a scarecrow, and how it spoke to you as a child about the "senselessness of existence". Do you still feel that existence is worthless today? Or does life make more sense the older you get?
Petra Wallace, via email

“ The story you are referring to is a fairy tale which impressed very much in my early youth and has followed me through life. Such dark fairy tales left quite an impression with me at the time. It has occasionally also found its way into my work.

I actually do feel quite fulfilled with my life these days. ”

Back when you worked on the original *Alien* movie, you did rounds of interviews that lasted for days – and you hated it! Do you dislike doing interviews? Is this interview process for *Bizarre* getting on your nerves?
Kevin Watt, via email

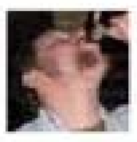
“ No, if the questions are interesting, I don't mind interviews. And I think *Bizarre*'s approach of letting readers direct the content of an interview is particularly intriguing, both for the interviewers and the interviewee. ”



Would you like to see Giger bars all over the world, or are you happy with the two that already exist in Switzerland?
Maze Minkley, via email

“ There existed an additional Giger bar in Tokyo for some time, and there was a Giger room in New York. The experiences with those establishments were somewhat mixed. In order to open a new Giger bar anywhere on this planet, certain basic conditions would therefore have to be fulfilled. A new Giger bar should only be established if it is done appropriately, and it should distinguish itself from the already existing Giger bars.

I am very happy with the Giger bars in Switzerland, in Chur and in Gruyères, at my museum. They are a perfect extension to the museum's representation of my work. ”

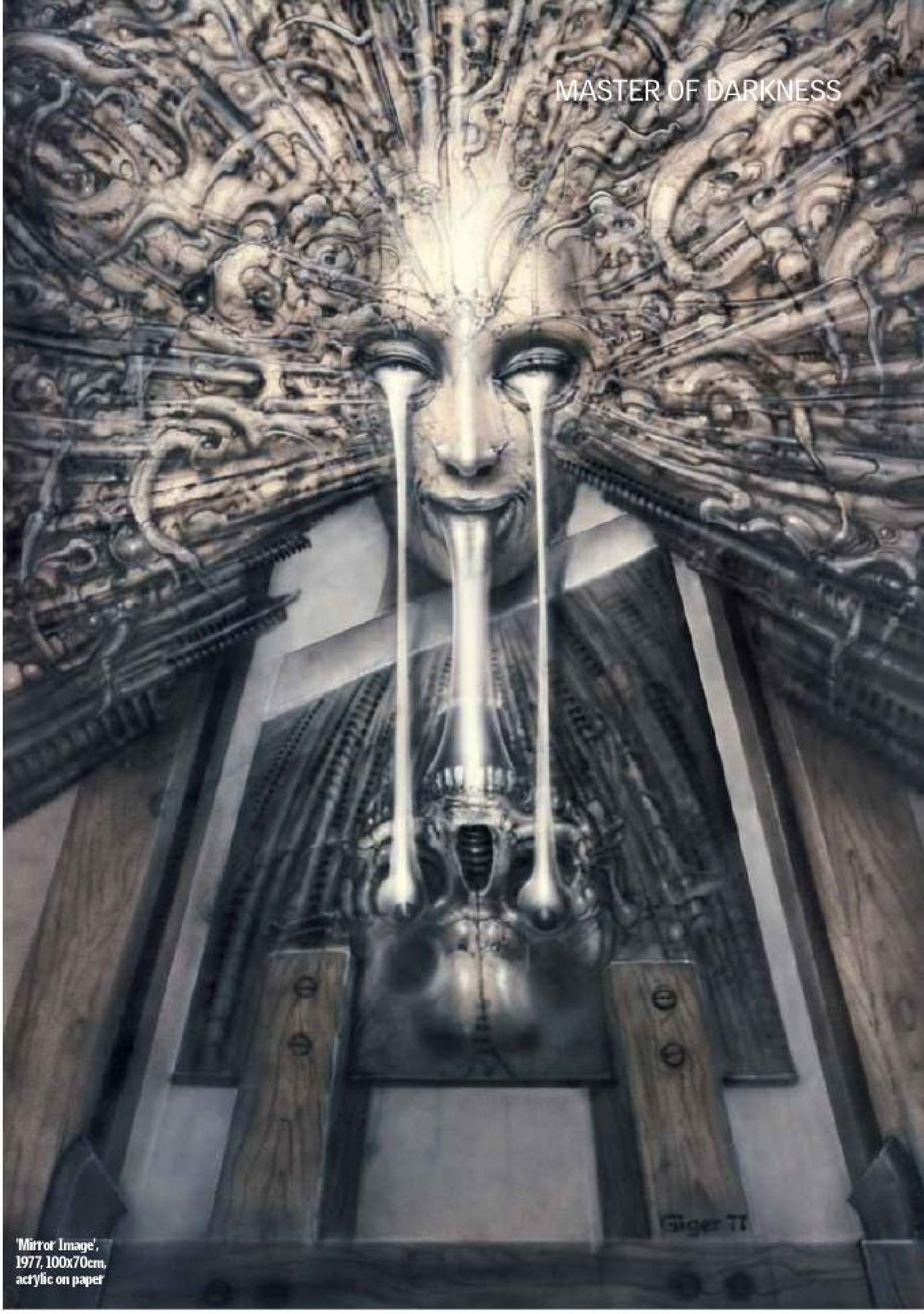


In the past you have designed a microphone stand and guitar – would you ever consider designing other music equipment, so that a whole band could play using Giger-inspired instruments? Do you have any ideas for how you'd apply your art style to a drum kit?
Sam Maier, via email

“ I have never really thought about that, but I guess I wouldn't mind looking at something like this, given the right people and circumstances. I have collaborated with musicians many times, of course, on wide a variety of projects. One should also remember that it was Korn's Jonathan Davis who approached me and had the original idea to create a microphone stand, and not the other way around.

I am no longer interested in such things, however. This is now very much a thing of the past for me. ”

You were upset that you didn't have a role in creature designs for *Aliens* and *Alien 3*. Do you still burn with disappointment, or has the passage of time healed those wounds? Can you watch *Aliens* and *Alien 3*, or do they dredge up unpleasant memories? Ryan Fahy, via email



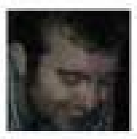
'Mirror Image', 1977, 100x70cm, acrylic on paper

“ Time has certainly healed the wounds a bit, but a part of me will of course always be disappointed that certain parties tried to appropriate my ideas and designs in such an improper manner.

I do like watching the other *Alien* films, although I hear I might be among the only ones to do so. ”

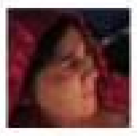
In the past you've referred to the Alien as your "baby" – how do you feel seeing your original designs defiled to create toys, action figures, videogames and other merchandise? Does it annoy you when toy-makers bastardise your visions and transform your Alien into a snake, a flying monster or whatever? Or have you got used to seeing variations on your original vision?
Sarah Rapley, via email

“ Given my humble beginnings and the fact that hardly anybody took notice of my work during the early years, I mainly find it hugely flattering and satisfying that some of my designs have attained such an incredible level of popularity. Flawed applications do annoy me, however, while seeing good ones is a true pleasure! ”



You've expressed your love for making sculptures in many interviews. Do you still produce a lot of sculptures today? Is it still as rewarding?
Jon Reynolds, via email

“ Yes, some three-dimensional versions of my designs are currently being made. It is fascinating, but also very demanding, due to the subtlety of shapes, details, dimensions, and proportions. Moreover, creating such sculptures is far from rewarding financially, due to the high production cost. It is far more a passion than financially viable. ”



You once said that your famous 'Birthmachine' artwork was your comment on overpopulation. Is that still an issue that still troubles you today? What other global issues concern you currently? Are these worries reflected in your recent work?
Beverley Houston, via email

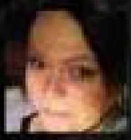
“ Of course that is still an issue today. Probably more so than ever before. I do feel quite troubled about the current state of affairs →

YOUR TRIBUTES

When news of HR Giger's death broke, *Bizarre*'s Facebook page – Facebook.com/bizarremagazine – was inundated with tributes from his fans and admirers. Here's a selection of your comments...

Ruby True
"I was more excited by the fact I was sharing a cover with HR Giger than I was about being a *Bizarre* cover star! Giger's art was an inspiration to me, and I remember spending hours in a bookshop looking at his work – I'm surprised I didn't get chucked out!"

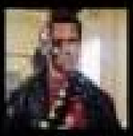
Cervena Fox
"So sad to hear about HR Giger. I studied his work in college, and even shared the cover of *Bizarre* with him back in 2012. He was such an amazing artist."



Michelle Biartch
"Warped mind and mentally insane man with so much to give. Sadly missed, but his art will remain forever."

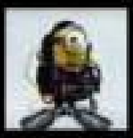
Damien Taylor
"Bummer. His unique style had a massive impact on the sci-fi world. One of the top artists of the 20th century, for sure."

Anson J Hahn
"A disturbing genius with a unique vision has been lost..."



Matt Elmo Sumner
"A true artist with a beautiful mind and gift. R.I.P."

Conor Mohan
"An absolute legend, R.I.P. May your warped mind keep haunting people from the other side."

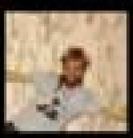


Ricky Kershaw
"A truly amazing man! I had his *Necronomicon* book, and his visions were literally out of this world! R.I.P. HR Giger."

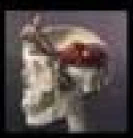
Thomas Mohr
"This really saddens me. He was such an excellent artist and inspired so many."

Mike Waters
"This man has inspired more people than Jesus. I could relate to him better too."

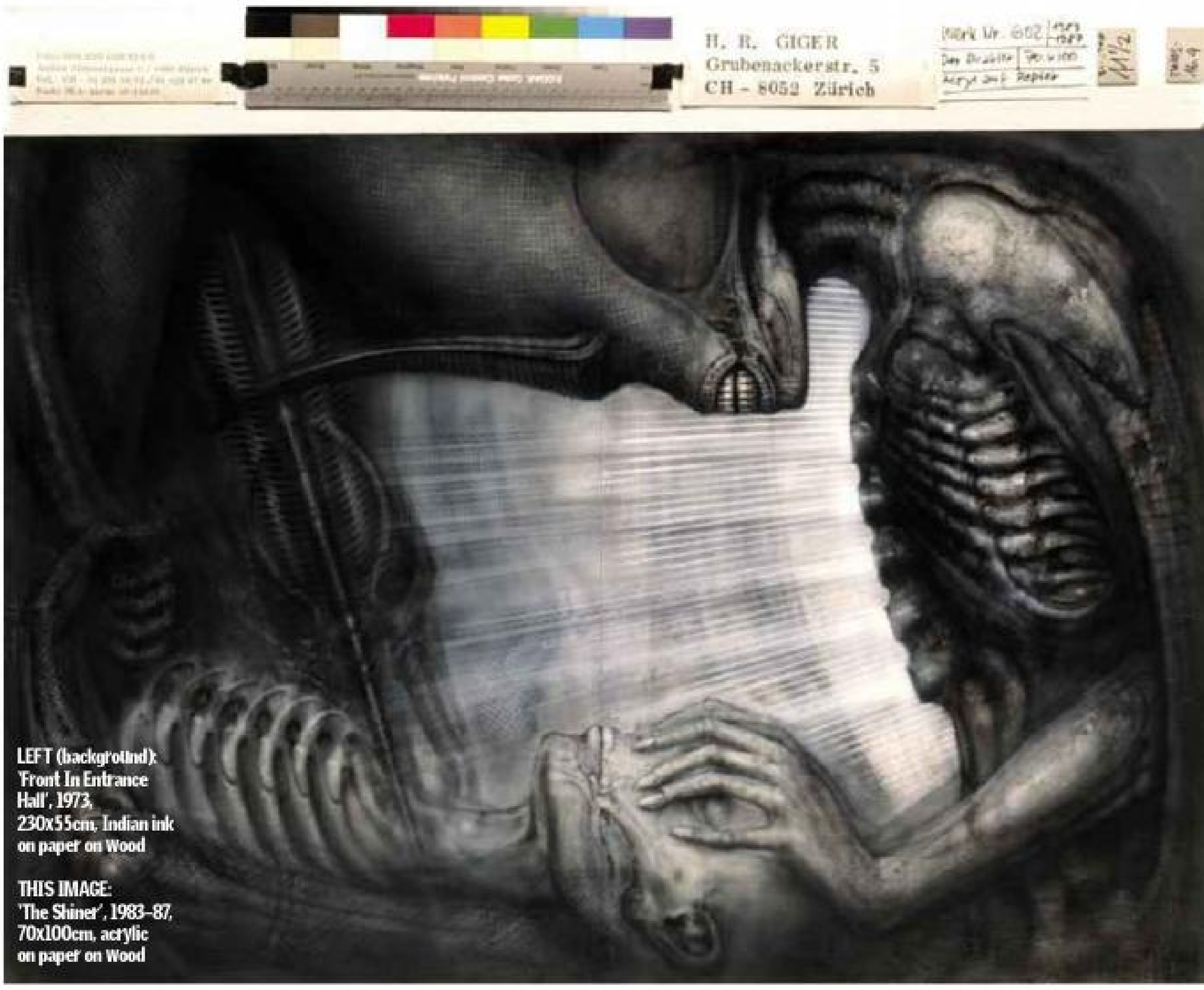
Christopher Belanger
"Another visionary has passed over to the other side."



Ray Harley
"Thank you for all you created; in your work and in our lives. R.I.P."



Rune Traveller
"HR Giger was master of twisted art, father of the xenomorph..."



LEFT (background): 'Front In Entrance Hall', 1973, 230x55cm, Indian ink on paper on Wood

THIS IMAGE: 'The Shiner', 1983–87, 70x100cm, acrylic on paper on Wood

on this planet with regard to the behaviour of human beings towards each other, towards the other creatures sharing this planet with us, and towards the environment. And those issues, of which there are many, will only become more pronounced as the earth's population increases. Greed and war, to me, really are the two main topics. It seems to me that greed is the reason for what is currently taking place in the world ”

Are there any artists currently working that you have deep respect for? You've spoken in the past about your love of artists such as Ernest Fuchs and Fredrich Kuhn – are there any other artists, past or present, who affect you on such a profound level?
James Cheung, via email

“ Ernst Fuchs is not only a friend, but somebody I have deeply admired for many years. There are many other artists for whom I feel profound respect. And I have, of course, admired certain artists of the past; Hieronymus Bosch or Salvador Dalí are perhaps the most important of them. Also, I have always felt deeply inspired by music and literature. ”

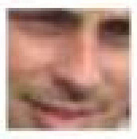
The sorts of music bands who obsess over your imagery today tend to play loud, aggressive rock music. What sort of music do you like to listen to when you're working? Do you still listen to a lot of soundtracks?
Cathy Burns, via email

“ It has been my experience that if you approach such music with an open mind and give yourself some time to truly listen to it, you will find that a number of these 'loud, aggressive' rock bands actually also create some very beautiful, fragile, and intricate music, far from the clichéd perception of the general public.

I personally love to mainly listen to modern jazz music, as I have since my youth. Miles Davis and Oscar Peterson are my favourite jazz musicians. ”

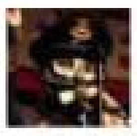
The Alien is one of the most famous film monsters, and the only classic movie creature to be credited to one artist – you! Does that make you proud as the Alien will live forever, and your name will always be attached to it?
Lynn Fowler, via email

“ Of course that's something I feel very flattered and proud about. As I stated earlier, I had rather humble beginnings and was very much ignored or even shunned by mainstream society for quite some time. When I began working with Ridley Scott, it was quite simply impossible to predict that *Alien* would become such a popular and influential film. I was mainly attracted to the collaboration by the fact that it would enable me to have my work featured on yet another platform, one I hadn't exploited fully yet. ”



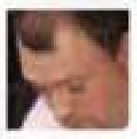
Why do you think your work is so popular in Japan? What is it about your work that strikes a chord with Japanese audiences?
Chris Hough, via email

“ The Japanese society has long been driven by a far stronger sense for the visual and for the surreal. It is, on one hand, a society deeply rooted in traditionalism and rigidity, but, at the same time, a society extremely eager to visualise everything in the most pronounced terms. I also have often noticed an inherent curiosity to explore what the surreal and the future could possibly look like. ”



It feels as if a HP Lovecraft renaissance is on the cards, and that people are sick of zombies and vampires in the media and need something deeper and more intelligent. Do you think the stars are aligned, and the time is right for a Lovecraft revival and Cthulhu to rise? Obviously, your work was influenced by Lovecraft in your early days – does his work have any influence on your work today?
Dr Blackthorn, via email

“It no longer really has an influence, since I no longer paint. But there was a period in my life, during the 1970s, when Lovecraftian ideas had an impact on many aspects of my work. My friend, Swiss writer Sergius Golowin, had quite a lot to do with that. His suggestions in this regard had a considerable effect on both my paintings and their titles.”



Looking back on your career, is there one thing above all else that you're particularly proud of?
Will Jones, via email

“I do feel flattered by the recognition my art has attained from people all over the world. To me personally, however, it is simply my work that is important. Anything else connected to it is of no importance to me. It is nice to be recognised as an artist, of course, but this was never the reason I created my art, nor was it ever a driving factor.”

Do you still suffer from night terrors, or have they subsided with the passage of time? If you're free of nightmares, what drives your darkest works today?
Melinda Ross, via email

“I no longer suffer night terrors. I do still dream vividly, however, and I love dreams. Dreams are an enrichment of my life. Carmen and I always share the dreams we each experience.”

“SOME OF MY MOST EXTRAORDINARY WORK ORIGINATES FROM TRYING TO COPE WITH FEAR”

In the past, when you were having night terrors, you said that art was a kind of therapy that helped you cope. Does art still have a therapeutic value for you today?
Paco Rivera, via email

“As I no longer actively create new art, this is no longer quite that applicable to me. What was crucial to me, and, as it seems, to many other artists, is that creating art really does have a therapeutic effect. Moreover, I have often experienced that some of the most extraordinary work originates from trying to cope with fear, pain, suffering, or other traumatic experiences embedded in the artist's mind.”

I suffer from bad dreams and use them to create my own art. Of all the night terrors you've had, is there one particular nightmare that has stuck with you, or a noctural vision that's greatly influenced your work?
CJ Fifer, via email

“There are many. In a lot of cases, recurring dreams eventually led to the creation of some of my most poignant works. I frequently wrote about this in my books, such as in the *Necronomicon*. An example of this is the 'Passagen' series of paintings of the late 1960s and early 1970s.”

Bizarre would like to extend its deepest condolences to HR Giger's wife, Carmen, and Tom Gabriel Fischer, who made this interview possible. We'd also like to say thanks to Matthias Belz for his help in supplying the incredible artwork for this feature, and Annie Bertram for allowing us to use her excellent portraits of HR Giger (see Annie's website at AnnieBertram.com). Make sure you check out the website for the Museum HR Giger at Hrgigermuseum.com

HR Giger with two of his recent sculptures

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Salvation Visual Assault #7

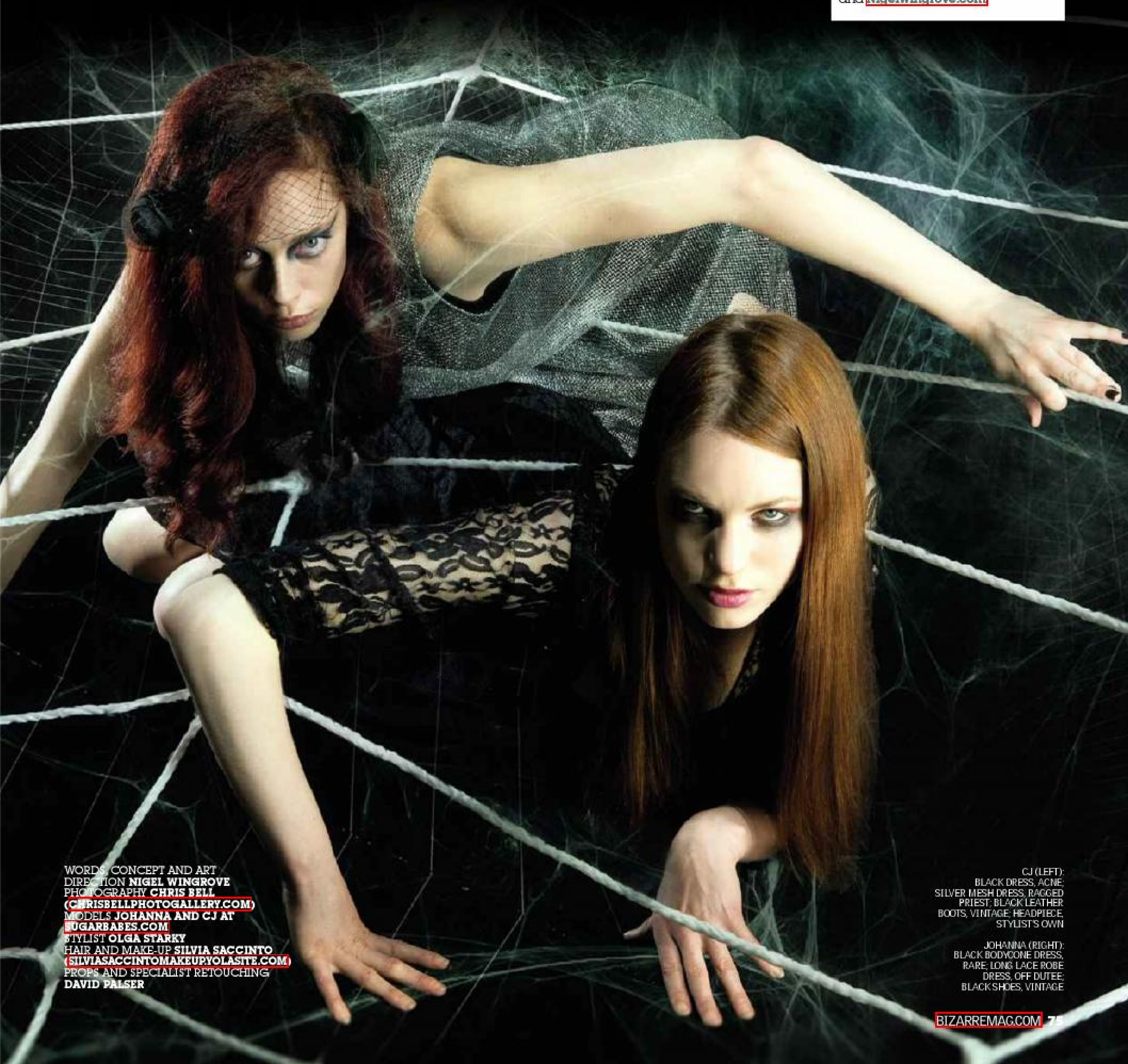
A TANGLED WEB

Although one in four people are scared of spiders, it can be hard to explain exactly why they creep us out. But by looking to the past and exploring our subconscious, **Nigel Wingrove** uncovers why many of us hate eight-legged freaks… →

YOUR HOST NIGEL WINGROVE

Each month in *Bizarre*, Nigel Wingrove – founder of the horror film company Redemption Films and the Salvation Group, and creator of the online alternative female collective, Satanic Sluts – will be assaulting you with a series of subversive, fashioned-themed, eye-popping photos to bring to life a facet of alternative culture or to make the ordinary extraordinary! All are guaranteed to push your sick and twisted buttons.

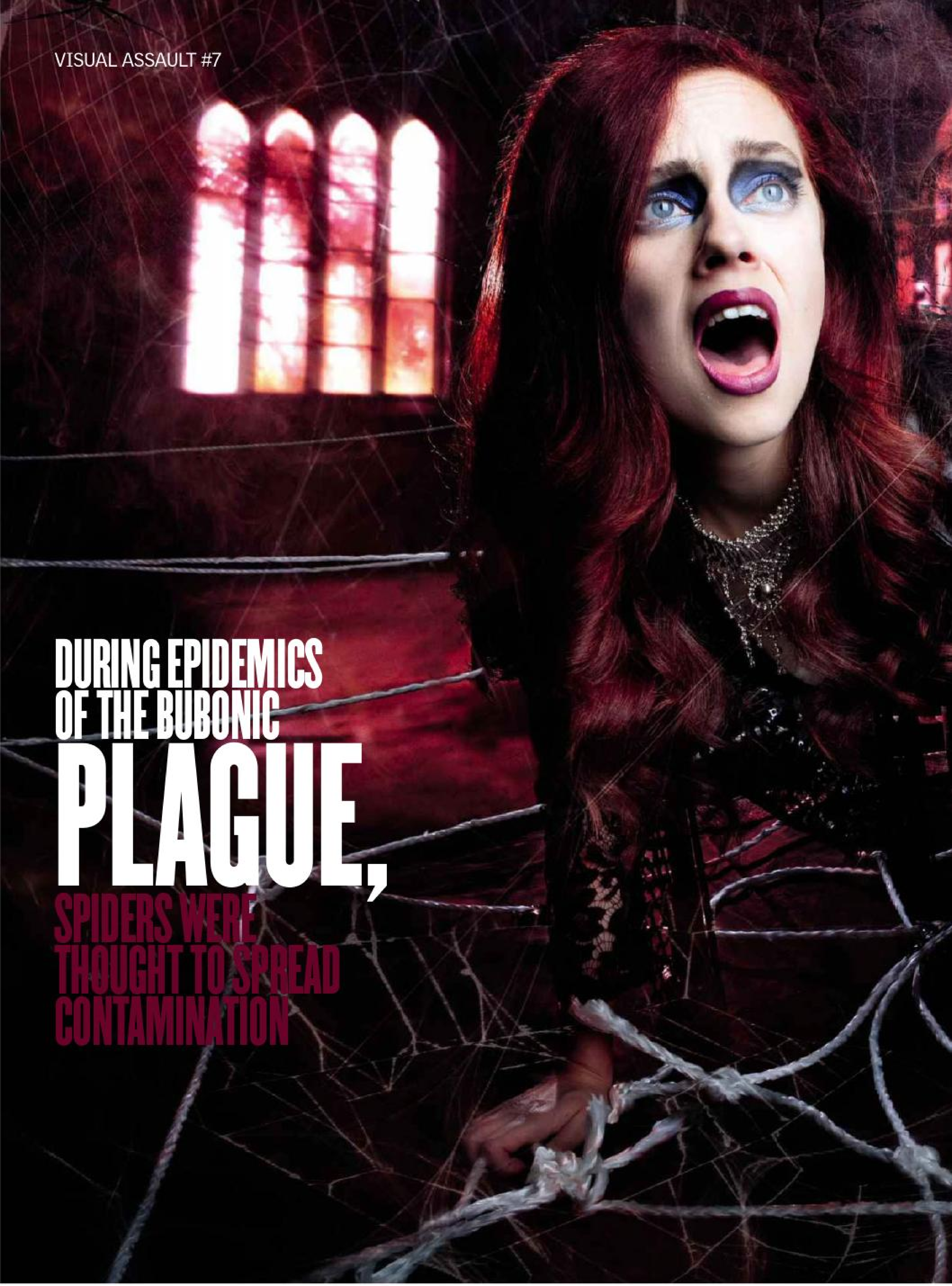
This month Nigel is using spiders as a springboard for his subversive take on the world of fashion. Find out more about Nigel and his work at **Salvation-films.com** and **Nigelwingrove.com**



WORDS, CONCEPT AND ART DIRECTION **NIGEL WINGROVE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS BELL (CHRISBELLPHOTOGALLERY.COM)**
MODELS **JOHANNA AND CJ AT SUGARBABES.COM**
STYLIST **OLGA STARKY**
HAIR AND MAKE-UP **SILVIA SACCINTO (SILVIASACCINTOMAKEUPYOLASITE.COM)**
PROPS AND SPECIALIST RETOUCHING **DAVID PALSER**

CJ (LEFT):
BLACK DRESS, ACNE; SILVER MESH DRESS, RAGGED PRIEST; BLACK LEATHER BOOTS, VINTAGE; HEADPIECE, STYLIST'S OWN

JOHANNA (RIGHT):
BLACK BODYCONE DRESS, RARE; LONG LACE ROBE DRESS, OFF DUTEE; BLACK SHOES, VINTAGE



DURING EPIDEMICS OF THE BUBONIC PLAGUE, SPIDERS WERE THOUGHT TO SPREAD CONTAMINATION

When Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet eating her curds and whey – then ran away in terror when a spider came calling – most people can sympathise with her hysterical reaction.

Statistics show that most people hate being up close and personal with an arachnid. In a YouGov survey conducted in March this year, arachnophobia emerged fourth in a list of British fears – just behind heights, snakes and public speaking – with a spider's size, black colour and long legs being cited as the reasons most people loathe them.

Unlike other harmless creatures that sneak into our homes as the weather improves and summer sweeps in, the appearance of a spider is most likely to provoke feelings of fear, shock and anxiety. And this ancient fear is deeply rooted in our subconscious.

ROOTS OF OUR FEAR

Many scientists and entomologists believe that our reaction to spiders is a learned behaviour, which has been passed from generation to generation. To test this theory, psychologists at the University of Würzburg in Germany asked 76 students to rate photographs of spiders, wasps, bees and other creepy-crawlies in terms of fear, disgust and danger. And spiders came top in all three categories.

This fear is believed to stem from the creature's long association with disease. During epidemics of the bubonic plague that rocked Europe in the Middle Ages, spiders were thought to spread contamination and were regarded as a harbinger of death. In accounts from the period when Europe was gripped by the Black Death, the sight of a spider scurrying from behind the bed of a plague victim was said to fill onlookers with dread.

Aside from the bubonic plague, spider bites have been blamed for spreading other diseases, and in the 11th century the wolf spider became associated with 'tarantism', a hysterical reaction in which victims – particularly in Southern Italy – were gripped by a mania in which they felt compelled to dance until they dropped dead.

But our aversion to spiders runs deeper than an irrational fear of disease, and is also rooted in pure revulsion; the same reaction that causes creatures such as maggots, leeches and worms to induce feelings of disgust. →

BLACK SCUBA BODYSUIT, OH MY LOVE; FARAWAY LACE JACKET, GOLDIE; SILVER CHOKER NECKLACE, VINTAGE

This revulsion is not an inherited or rational fear, but is instead linked to phobias of dirt, contamination, mucus and faeces. So it's little surprise that the humble spider also tops the charts when researchers and bored journalists periodically prepare lists of the things that revolt us most.

INTO DREAMS

With its spindly legs and segmented body buried deep in our psyches, it's little wonder that spiders feature prominently in both our dreams and our nightmares.

Dreams about spiders are most commonly interpreted as being associated with femininity; the word arachnid is derived from the Greek myth of Arachne, a great weaver who boasted that her skills were greater than those of the goddess Athena who, in her anger, turned Arachne into a spider, cursing her and her descendants to weave for eternity.

The spider's ability to weave a web is also said to shape our nocturnal visions, with dreams of cobwebs often being associated with the web of life, building a home, and the weaving of our destinies and general creativity.

But in the dark labyrinths of our subconscious lurk the spiders of our nightmares. When something stirs in the blackness of sleep, triggered by a thought or a worry in the same way that the lightest touch on a web alerts a spider to its prey, arachnids often appear as a manifestation of our most overwhelming concerns.

This fear is intensified by the fact that many female spiders eat their male partners after mating, while some 10 to 15 per cent devour their lover before they've even mated. Termed 'precopulatory sexual cannibalism', scientists believe this behaviour takes place when a female spider has plenty of male partners to choose from, and she realises that snacking on the odd suitor won't stop her finding another male to get his eight legs over.

BLACK SCUBA BODYSUIT, OH MY LOVE; FARAWAY LACE JACKET, GOLDIE; SILVER CHOKER NECKLACE, VINTAGE

This action, most commonly associated with the black widow spider, has given arachnids a femme fatale persona, in which females entice unsuspecting and gullible males with the promise of sex. The black widow spider is now synonymous with a tough female assassin – as exemplified by Scarlett Johansson's character in *Marvel Avengers Assemble* – or as a manipulative wife who aims to kill her mate and inherit his estate. The moniker 'Black Widow' has also been attached to the sinister Chechen female suicide bombers known as Shahidka or the Brides Of Allah, who are nothing more than human bombs despite their glamorous nickname.

TRAPPED IN A WEB

Today, spiders and spider aesthetics are ingrained in our subconscious: we fear spiders and marvel at their creative work; we cover and adorn ourselves in jewellery, tattoos and fabrics inspired by them; and we make films such as *Spider-Man*, in which humans take on arachnid characteristics. For centuries we've written rhymes and stories about them, from Itsy Bitsy Spider clambering up the water spout, to Shelob the "evil thing in spider form" that blocked Frodo's way through Mordor in *The Lord Of The Rings*, and Acromantula with a liking for human flesh in the *Harry Potter* books.

Yet, in many ways, most people know little about these strange creatures and their stranger ways. With our wonderment and revulsion reflected in its eight starring eyes, the spider waits for us to tap its web... Ⓑ

BLACK MAXI DRESS, RARE; NUDE LEATHER GLOVES, STYLIST'S OWN

SCUBA PLUNGE MIDI DRESS,
OH MY LOVE; NECKLACE,
TOPSHOP FREEDOM;
BLACK SANDALS, RIVER ISLAND

SPIDERS HAVE A FEMME FATALE PERSONA, IN WHICH FEMALES ENTICE UNSUSPECTING AND GULLIBLE MALES WITH THE PROMISE OF SEX

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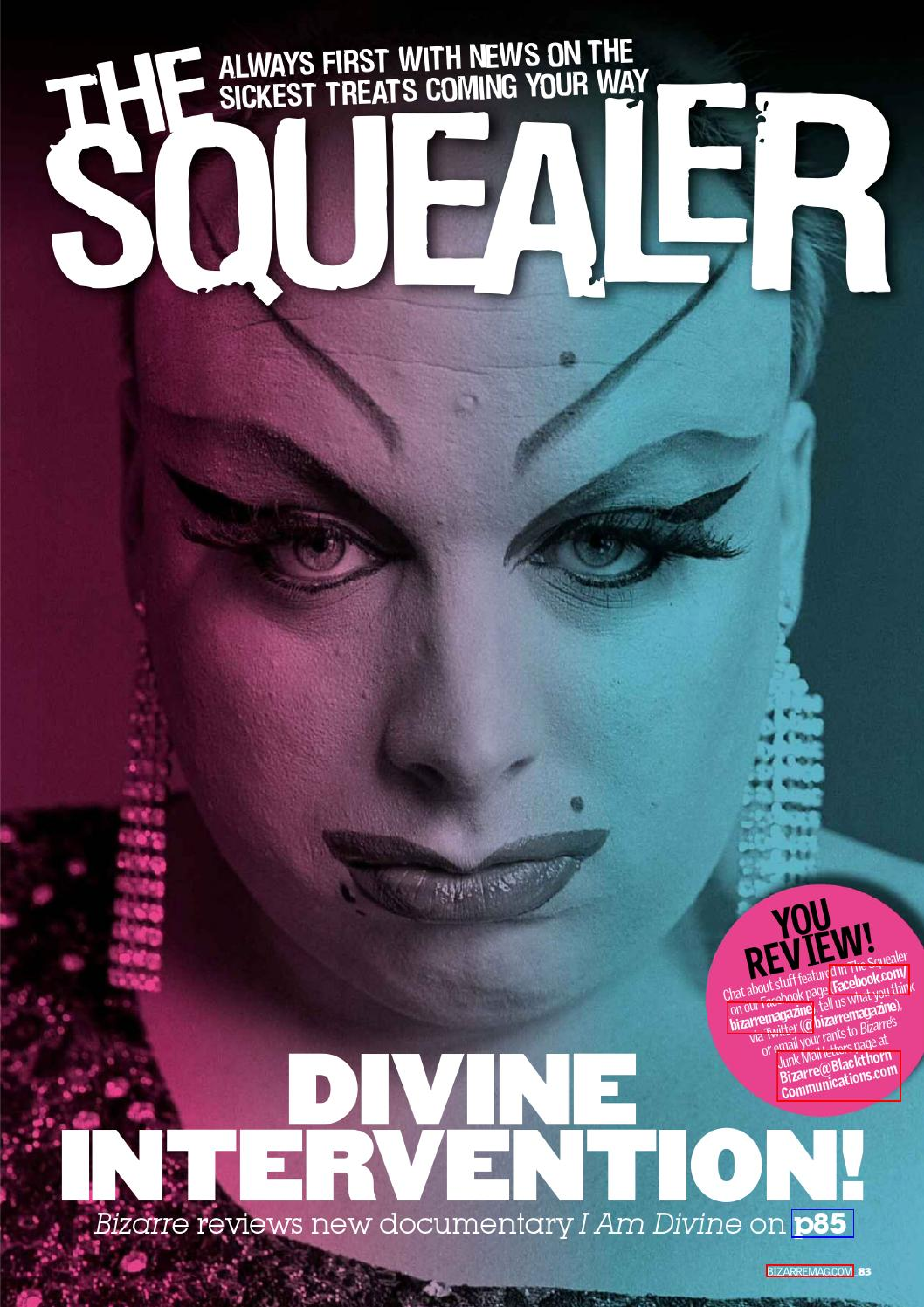
THE SQUEALER

ALWAYS FIRST WITH NEWS ON THE SICKEST TREATS COMING YOUR WAY



DIVINE INTERVENTION!

Bizarre reviews new documentary *I Am Divine* on **p85**

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THE MAN WHOSE MIND EXPLODED

Celebrating one of Britain's most beloved eccentrics

OUT NOW

WHILE BRIGHTON IS FAMOUS for its eccentrics, *The Man Whose Mind Exploded* establishes Drako Oho Zarhazar as the seaside town's most fascinating resident.

After spotting Drako cycling through town wearing a cape, film-maker Toby Amies vowed to find out more about him. And after seven years in production, this remarkable and touching documentary allows viewers to step inside Drako's incredible and troubled mind.

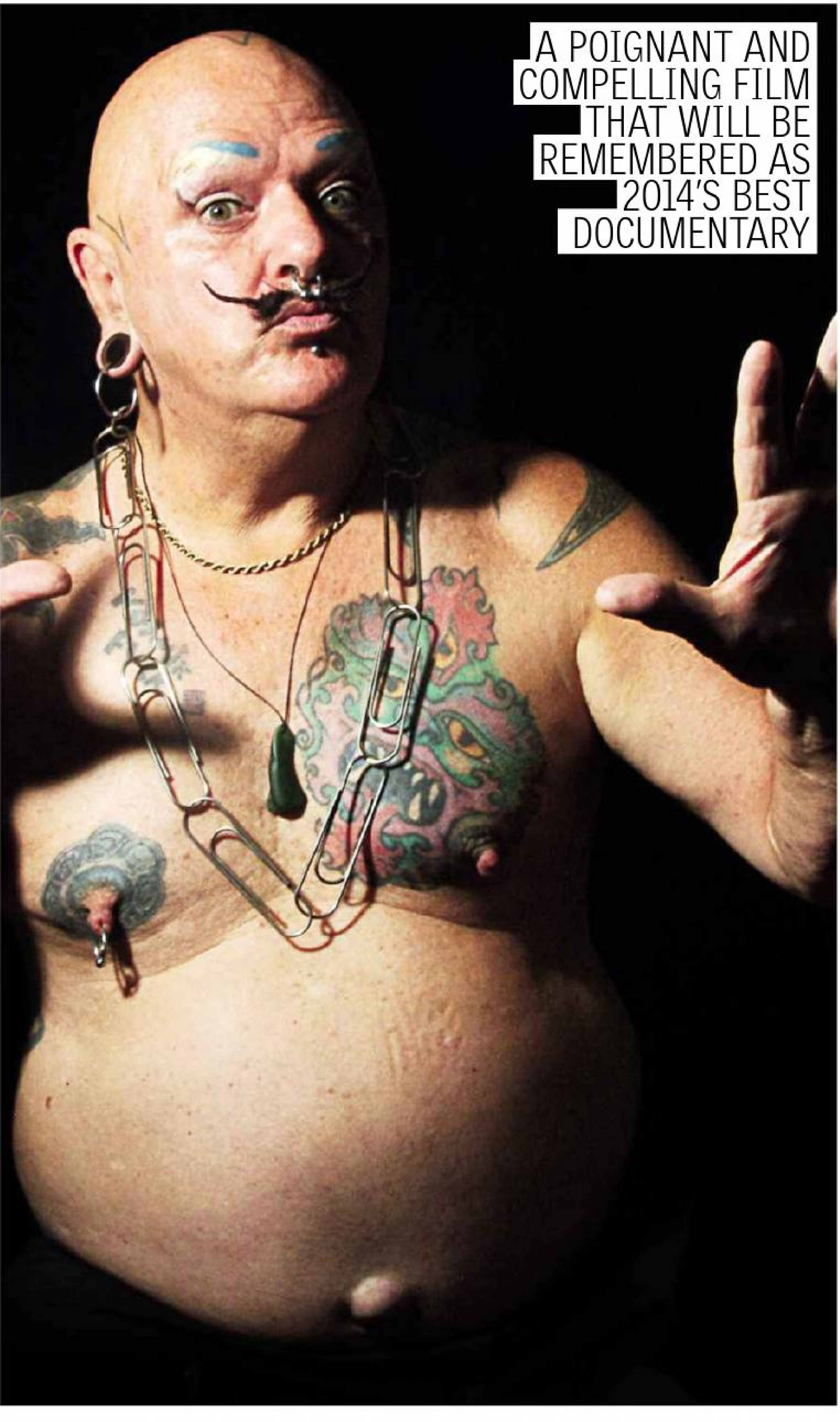
Although Drako was always a colourful character – he was once Salvador Dalí's muse – his behaviour became more erratic after several nervous breakdowns, suicide attempts, and two motorcycle accidents that resulted in him developing anterograde amnesia; a condition that prevents victims from creating new memories. And if you've seen Christopher Nolan's *Memento*, in which the lead character suffers from short-term memory loss and uses notes and tattoos to stay sane, Drako's dilemma will be familiar territory.

In lesser hands, such a difficult subject would have been handled in an exploitative manner. But from the get-go it's obvious that this was never on Amies' agenda, and every frame – particularly during traumatic incidents – oozes with the director's empathy and unconditional love for Drako.

The Man Whose Mind Exploded is such a poignant and compelling film that it's bound to be remembered as 2014's best documentary. To coin one of Drako's favourite sayings, we bet you will "love it all!" **Billy Chainsaw**

THE **BEST NEW FILMS** COMING TO A BIG DARK ROOM NEAR YOU

THE SQUEALER



A POIGNANT AND COMPELLING FILM THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED AS 2014'S BEST DOCUMENTARY

COLD IN JULY

OUT NOW

When Richard Dane shoots a burglar, he's hailed as a hero by the residents of his home town in Texas. But when the robber's ex-con father shows up, Dane begins to fear for his life. Tense, suspenseful and beautifully played, *Cold In July* is a gritty slice of Southern pulp fiction that uses a contentious subject to weave an engrossing and exciting tale.

I AM DIVINE

OUT 18 JULY

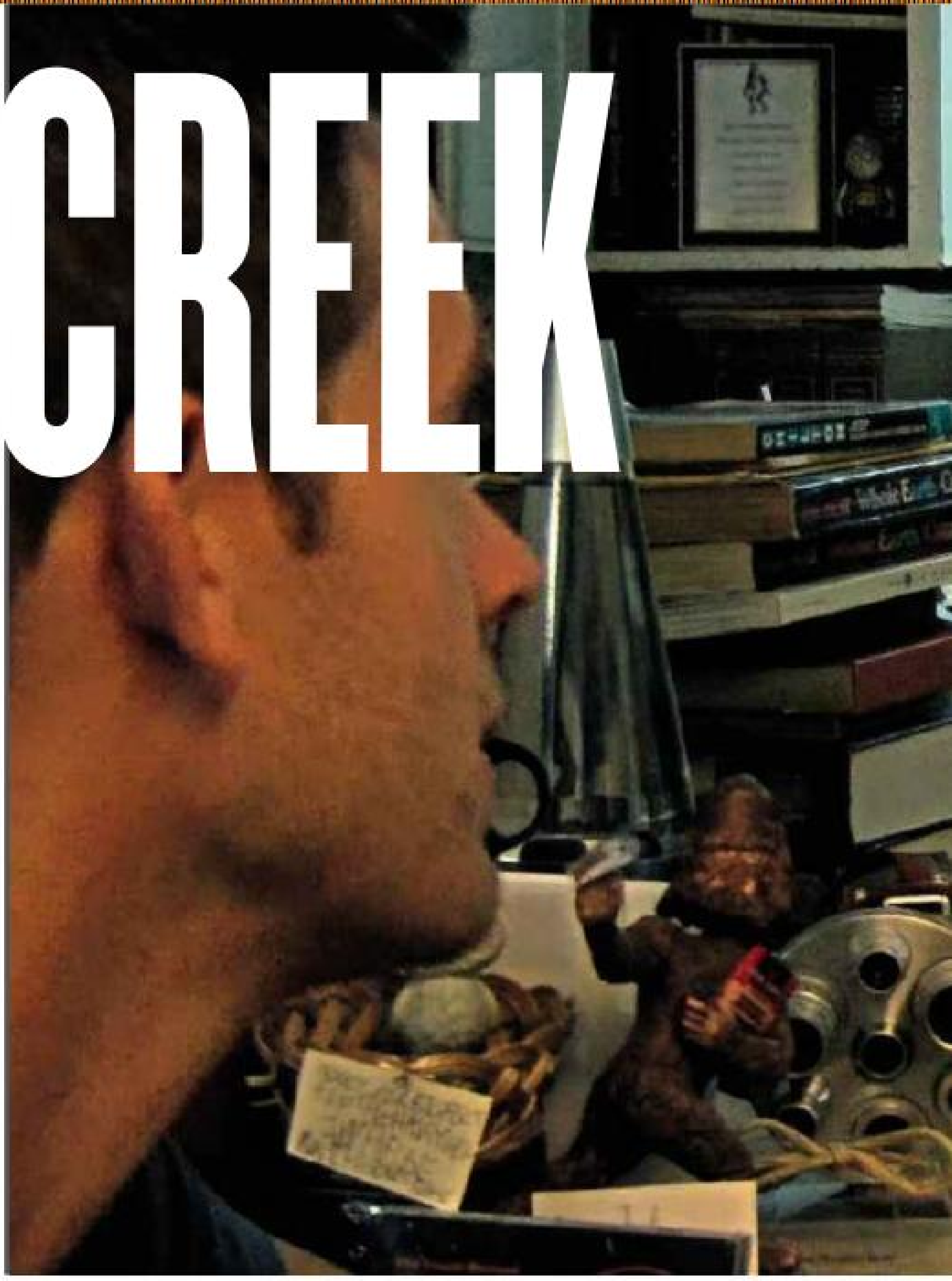
This documentary is as entertaining and outrageous as its subject; legendary drag queen Divine. Family and friends recount how Divine transformed from a weighty schoolboy into an international star, a trajectory fuelled by appearances in John Waters movies. *I Am Divine* is poignant and hilarious, but with a finale that will tug at your heart strings. **Billy Chainsaw**

DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

OUT 17 JULY

We were hoping to see *Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes* before this issue went to press, but we couldn't sort out a screening in time. Anyway, if you're like us and love anything that mixes monkeys and sci-fi, you won't be able to resist this story of a war between man and apes.

WILLOW CREEK



Single-handedly saving the found footage genre…

OUT NOW

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE: *Willow Creek* sets a new benchmark for found footage movies, and will delight anyone who's grown tired of this hackneyed horror subgenre.

Willow Creek is the story of a Bigfoot enthusiast and his sceptical girlfriend, who travel to Northern California to film themselves following in the footsteps of Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin, the duo who shot the famous footage of Bigfoot in Bluff Creek in 1967.

Although writer / director Bobcat Goldthwait (yup, the high-pitched comedian from the *Police Academy* films…) is best known for cutting-edge comedies such as *World's Greatest Dad*, in his latest flick laughter takes a back seat to atmosphere. Sure, there's some fun to be had at the expense of the hokey locals in the first half of the film – but once the protagonists travel deep into the woods, the mood shifts to one of blood-curdling terror.

A key factor in the film's success is the strong chemistry between the two central characters, who are so believable that you won't be able to help rooting for them as their plight gets progressively worse (especially during the part-scripted / part-improvised 17 minute sequence where they cower in their tent and are terrorised by shudder-inducing noises made by whatever the hell is lurking outside).

Goldthwait's obvious love of the horror genre and ability to orchestrate unsettling set-pieces makes *Willow Creek* a fine example of micro-budget, indie horror film-making.

Billy Chainsaw

ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN
BIGFOOT

GRINDHOUSE TRAILER CLASSICS 4

OUT NOW

This fourth volume of mind-blowing movie trailers features gangster midgets, white slavery, mental martial arts, vampires, werewolves, cock fights, killer cats, swinging cheerleaders, drug-fuelled debauchery, delinquent schoolgirls, a mad doctor and a sinful dwarf. What greater recommendation do you need to buy this delirious DVD? **Billy Chainsaw**

THEATRE OF BLOOD

OUT NOW

Any movie that mixes camp melodrama, hardcore gore and black, black comedy is a winner in our books. And as *Theatre Of Blood* also features a star turn by genre legend Vincent Price, this is a fright flick no self-respecting horror fan should miss. And the poodle eating scene is a doozy...

HEMLOCK GROVE: SEASON 1

OUT NOW

Television series *Hemlock Grove* may have got mixed reviews, but we dig this stylish tale of small town secrets, murder and monsters. More mature than *Twilight* and weirder than *True Blood*, *Hemlock Grove* covers a lot of ground in its first season, but still creates believable characters you'll quickly come to care for. And the werewolf transformations are wicked!

REAL **HORROR** SHOW!

BILLY CHAINSAW

THIS MONTH: **HUNTING THE LEGEND**

All the latest news from *Bizarre's* free film club, CUT!

"CUT! is the free *Bizarre* film club that I host once a month in London's Horse Hospital; a spooky venue that was used in Victorian times for treating injured nags. It still has deep gullies in the stone floor where the blood of injured horses drained away during gore-soaked operations…

"As you'd expect from anything connected to *Bizarre*, we only screen the most senses-searing, outrageous, violent, horrific and arty movies doing the rounds. And as all our screenings are exclusive previews of yet-to-be released theatrical or DVD / Blu-ray movies, CUT! is a place to see movies that you won't find anywhere else.

"CUT! serves up more than a free film, though. All attendees also get a free drink, and are entered into a free prize draw to win a stack of DVDs, all for telling us what they thought of the film on a reaction sheet.

"The latest CUT! featured a full-tilt terror-ride called *Hunting The Legend*. The film kicks off with a kid on a hunting trip with his father. Unfortunately, when dad disappears into the undergrowth he doesn't return, and the boy believes his old man's been killed by Bigfoot.

"Not surprisingly, local cops dismiss the boy's far-fetched theory; but when the kid is older he talks his mates into revisiting the site of his dad's disappearance, in an attempt to prove he met his end at the hands of the legendary beast. Naturally, their 'closure' adventure turns into a bloody nightmare…

"This debut feature by writer / director Justin Steeley is a slow-moving affair that focuses more on character interaction and atmospherics than on shocks. In fact, because there's only a smattering of gore, the fun comes from watching the characters losing their minds as they edge ever closer to the foul-smelling truth.

"Although *Hunting The Legend* is light on gore – and features a bunch of characters you'll never feel emotionally attached to – it's still fun to sit back and wait for the protagonists to be bumped off. And as the action is brought to life by lively direction from Steeley, *Hunting The Legend* is a gripping fright flick that will keep you hooked right up until its downbeat climax."

Hunting The Legend will be released on DVD on 7 July

WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre*'s Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

IF YOU LIKE ***HUNTING THE LEGEND*** YOU MIGHT LIKE ***ABOMINABLE (2006)***

Abominable is a tale of survival that sees a crippled mountaineer attempting to stop a mass slaughter at the hands of a ravenous Bigfoot. But thankfully for gorehounds everywhere, the hapless hero has a hard time convincing a local sheriff that the hairy killer exists…

Abominable features horror heavyweights such as *Pumpkinhead*'s Lance Henriksen, *The Howling*'s Dee Wallace, and *Re-Animator*'s Jeffrey Combs. And thanks to a creepy, animatronics-enhanced man-in-a-suit monster, it's one of the best Sasquatch flicks out there.

ABOMINABLE

BIZARRE presents

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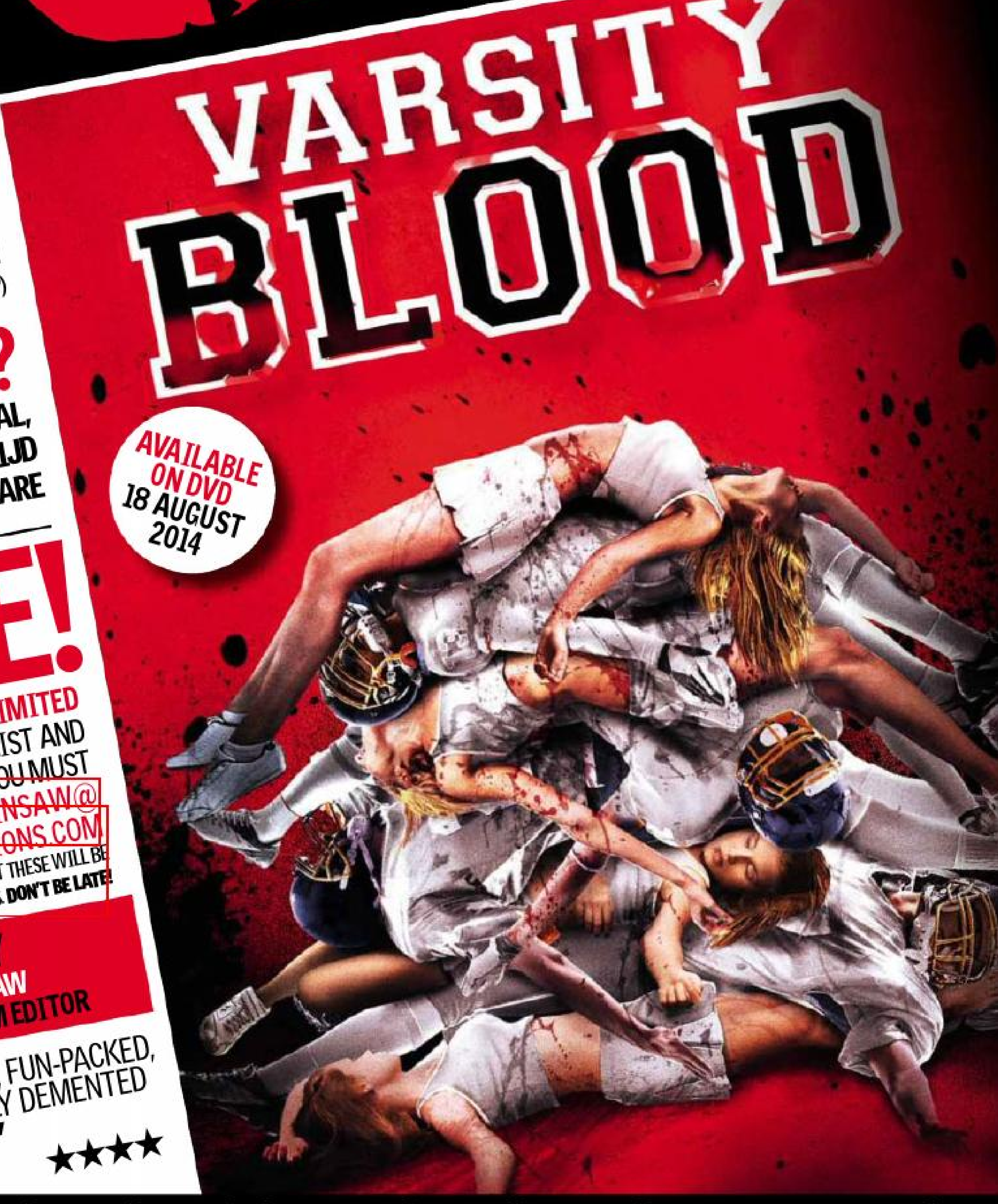

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WOLVES IN THE THRONE ROOM

Sibling black metallers 'channel' forest spirits with heartfelt ambient album…

CELESTITE

OUT NOW

Eco-warriors WITTR are one of the most intelligent and atmospheric of all black metal bands – no mean feat for a genre renowned for dabbling in ethereal melody. Furthering past experiments with vintage synths, their fifth opus – a companion to 2011's *Celestial Lineage* – is orchestrated using ambient sounds, and completely devoid of guitar shred. It's a surprising, but enthralling and contemplative album to cherish.

Q&A AARON WEAVER, MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST

Has it always been your goal to record a synthesiser-based, ambient record?
We came up with the concept while recording our last album, *Celestial Lineage*. When we muted the guitars and drums while mixing, we were left with these tripped-out chiming synthesisers and ambient sounds. It seemed liked a great idea to record an album focused on that side of the band. *Celestite* is based on material that didn't make *Celestial Lineage*, or is in the final mix but which you can't hear because of the harsh guitars, drums and vocals. We've always been interested in the soundscape element of black metal, and a more spatial approach to sound design. *Celestial Lineage* and *Celestite* mirror each other; they provide alternative perspectives of the same concepts.

Given there are no lyrics on *Celestite*, are these "same concepts" a reference to aesthetics rather than ideology?

"THE FOREST WHERE WE LIVE IS FULL OF SPIRITS"

The best way to talk about it is in terms of space or architecture. Our music is very visual. Whenever we write a new record, we compile and rearrange images: photographs, film stills and paintings. These provide the storyboard. *Celestite* exists in the same architectural dimension as *Celestial Lineage*. It goes deeper in certain aspects that we weren't able to explore on the previous album.

How much does living in forests in the Pacific Northwest influence your sound?
It's the whole raison d'être for our band. I don't know if 'channelling' is the right word, but the forest up here is full of spirits and incredible power and energy, especially high in the mountains where the ecosystems are relatively intact because the terrain is too treacherous for the loggers to reach. Our music is our interpretation and vision of what we see and feel when interacting with the natural and wild world around here.

Much has been made of your music as 'ecological black metal' and 'astral black metal'. Are your ideologies essentially pagan?
Our music is tied up with our spiritual life or within the deeper sense of who we are, and the things we want to do in our lifetime in this world. 'Pagan' is a tough word because it's specific. There's orthodoxy connected to paganism: Thor's hammer, Odin, and in England where people connect with sacred sites such as Stonehenge. I'm unwilling to put myself in that box. I don't feel like I have any sort of connection to any living pagan

tradition, and that's mostly because I'm American and a stranger in the place that I live. In many ways we're making things up as we go along. That's what our music is to us; an attempt to find some sort of coherence or meaning, and root ourselves more solidly. Paganism is traditionally a religion or spirituality connected to place, landscapes, animals, plants, trees, and water – the things we need to survive. Pagan spirituality is about interacting with those forces in a respectful way. In a roundabout way, we are trying to do that. We use our music to connect to 'nature' – the one word that describes the massive phenomena that humans interact with.

Your music is described as meditative rather than aggressive. Do you ever distance yourselves from the term 'black metal' and its link to Satanism?

Yes and no. I think the horned image and Satan sometimes represents a reverence for chaos, which is part of the natural world. The universe at large doesn't have a concern for our interests, needs and desires. One way of looking at then is as 'these satanic lands'. So I get the connection between black metal and Satanism. That makes sense to me *intellectually*. But that's not the way we do it in our life and through our music. The Satanism thing just seems silly.

Is it true you guys live on a self-sufficient farm?

Again, yes and no. When my brother and bandmate Nathan and I started the band, we lived together on a farm. But that was 10 years ago and a lot of that has been mythologised. For me personally, I'm super-interested in transforming my life where I am more responsible for the source of my heath and food. But the whole concept of WITTR living out of a commune and going on a tour van and hoeing beets has been blown out of proportion. I understand why it has. It's a very romantic and engaging image.

So how do you think fans will react to *Celestite*?

I honestly have no idea. As an artist, as soon as you start thinking how people will react, it's the death knell. This record is a progression and a shift, but it's not a 'change' in direction for us. I think that any future music we do will incorporate more of the heavy metal and black metal sounds that we've used before.

Stephen Daultrey

THE CAMBODIAN SPACE PROJECT

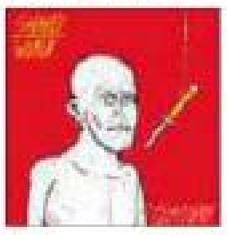
WHISKEY CAMBODIA

OUT 14 JULY

TCSP are exotic soul kings who resurrect the vibe of 1960s Cambodian pop in a quirky, vibrant style that's impossible not to love. Frontwoman Srey Thy was born during Pol Pot's oppressive regime, lived in a tank, and was nearly inducted into a sex trafficking ring. But such eye-opening horrors are worlds away from the rays of light emanating from this glorious album.

SHAVED WOMEN

JUST DEATH

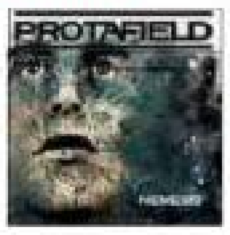


OUT 8 AUGUST

While Googling 'shaved women' won't fast-track you to this Missouri quartet's grizzled punk sounds, it does bring up countless of tips for shaving your pubes. For those swerving the genital grooming advice, they'll discover a band whose amphetaminic DIY menace is hairier (and manlier) than a topless Brian Blessed bear-hugging wildebeests in a wig shop. That's irony, right?

PROTAFIELD

NEMESIS

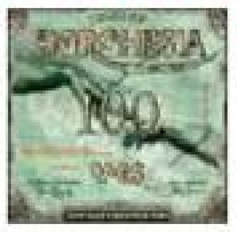


OUT NOW

Protafield is Jayce Lewis; a Welsh electro-metal upstart who is, somewhat randomly, championed by David 'Darth Vader' Prowse. For his band's new record, Lewis not only invites Gary Numan to cameo, but also features *Alien* star Lance Henriksen muttering "droid" on the singer's phone after the pair got sloshed in a bar. Sci-fi fans should be curious.

BORGHESIA

AND MAN CREATED GOD



OUT NOW

Now there's an album title to spark a few decades' worth of debate. The work of Slovenian avant-gardists Borghesia, an electronic group sharing ground with fellow ex-Yugoslav collective Laibach, this angry record presents a damning indictment of our material world, blasting how 21st century man is governed by shitty politicians and one deity: MONEY. Its message is obvious, but true.

BOOKS THE BEST NEW READS ON THE SHELVES THIS MONTH

EC COMICS SLIPCASE VOL. 1

Hefty horror compilation from the golden age of terror comics

JACK DAVIS, AL WILLIAMSON, AL FELDSTEIN

OUT NOW

ON 29 APRIL THIS YEAR the publishing world lost one of its most unique and subversive voices, Al Feldstein.

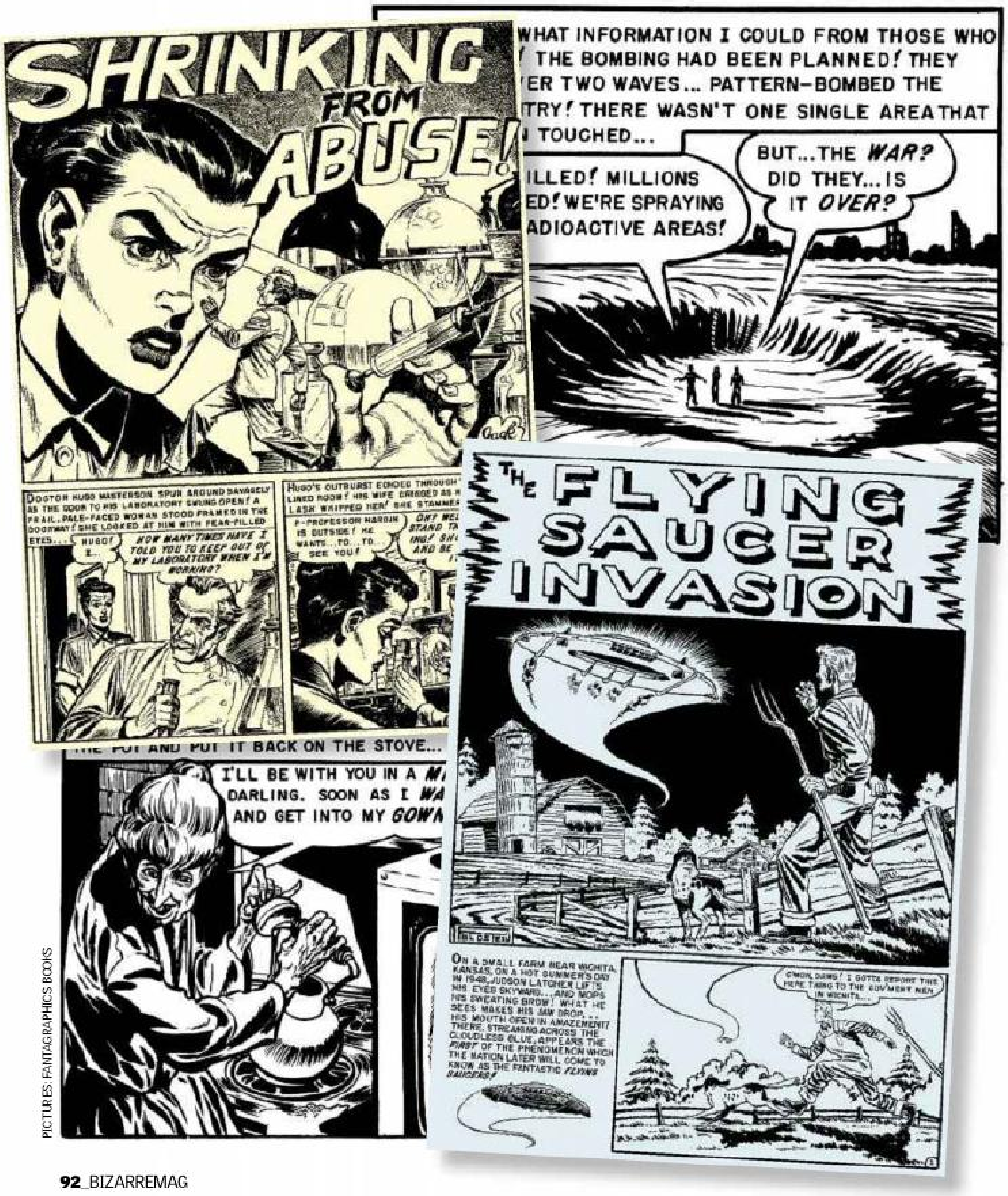
But while Feldstein is most fondly remembered as editor of the groundbreaking satire magazine *Mad* from 1956 – 1985, he was also a key player behind early titles produced by EC Comics; the controversial publisher whose lurid tales of horror, aliens, murder and warfare sparked a US government investigation in the 1950s that concluded comics were corrupting the young.

Born on 24 October 1925 in Brooklyn, New York, Feldstein attended prestigious art schools in his teens and served as an artist in the army during World War II. After the war he freelanced as an artist for various publications before landing a job at EC Comics in 1948, where he rose to prominence as an editor.

EC Comics' tales are notorious and legendary, and include popular series such as *Weird Science* and *Tales From The Crypt*. And this bulky, back-breaking *EC Comics Slipcase Vol. 1* box set collects the first four hardback compilations in Fantagraphics' ongoing EC Comics series from various authors and artists.

Feldstein's contributions are fun and twisted, and include acid-throwing stage hunchbacks ('Well-Cooked Hams') and meddling kids uncovering murder plots at the local mortuary ('Undertaking Palor'). And while EC Comics stopped producing its wild tales in the mid-1950s as a reaction to the public backlash against its output, *Mad* went on to become an institution and made Feldstein a hugely respected and influential figure.

For anyone with the faintest interest in left-field comics and nostalgic horror, this slipcase is a perfect package to haunt your bookshelves. RIP Al Feldstein. What a legend. **Stephen Daultrey**


SHRINKING FROM ABUSE!
DOCTOR HUGO MASTERSON SPUN AROUND SAVAGELY AS THE DOOR TO HIS LABORATORY SWUNG OPEN! A FRAIL, PALE-FACED WOMAN STOOD FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY! SHE LOOKED AT HIM WITH FEAR-FILLED EYES...
HUGO! I...
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO KEEP OUT OF MY LABORATORY WHEN I'M WORKING?
HUGO'S OUTBURST ECHOED THROUGH LINED ROOM! HIS WIFE CRINGED AS A LASH WHIPPED HER! SHE STAMMERED
P-PROFESSOR MARDIN IS OUTSIDE! HE WANTS... TO... TO... SEE YOU!
WHAT INFORMATION I COULD FROM THOSE WHO THE BOMBING HAD BEEN PLANNED! THEY ER TWO WAVES... PATTERN-BOMBED THE TRY! THERE WASN'T ONE SINGLE AREA THAT TOUCHED...
ILLED! MILLIONS ED! WE'RE SPRAYING ADIOACTIVE AREAS!
BUT... THE WAR? DID THEY... IS IT OVER?
THE FLYING SAUCER INVASION
ON A SMALL FARM NEAR WICHITA, KANSAS, ON A HOT SUMMER'S DAY IN 1948, JUDSON LATCHER LIFTS HIS EYES SKYWARD... AND MOPS HIS SWEATING BROW! WHAT HE SEES MAKES HIS JAW DROP... HIS MOUTH OPEN IN AMAZEMENT! THERE, STREAMING ACROSS THE CLOUDLESS BLUE, APPEARS THE FIRST OF THE PHENOMENON WHICH THE NATION LATER WILL COME TO KNOW AS THE FANTASTIC FLYING SAUCERS!
C'MON, DUKE! I GOTTA REPORT THIS HERE THING TO THE GUV'MENT MEN IN WICHITA...
THE POT AND PUT IT BACK ON THE STOVE...
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MI DARLING. SOON AS I WA AND GET INTO MY GOW

PICTURES: FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

CUT UP!

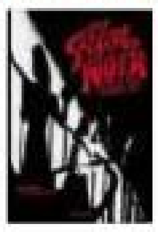
AD HITCHIN & JOE AMBROSE (EDITORS)

OUT NOW

This book compiles new writings and art by contemporary visionaries intent on carrying the 'cut up' torch into the future; a system developed by William Burroughs and Brion Gysin in the 1950s, where they'd take a piece of finished text and cut it into pieces, then rearrange those pieces to create a new work of art. Prepare to have your mind reconfigured and your guts churned. **Billy Chainsaw**

FILM NOIR: 100 ALL-TIME FAVOURITES

PAUL DUNCAN & JURGEN MULLER (EDITORS)



OUT NOW

With moody lighting sensually recreated across almost 700 silky pages, this luxury tome delivers detailed insights into 100 film noir masterpieces. Spectacularly dissected are many of *Bizarre*'s favourite cinematic moments, such as 1945 Gothic chiller *The Spiral Staircase*, *The Cabinet Of Dr Caligari* and the scary *Night Of The Hunter*. In a word: awesome. **Stephen Daultrey**

DO YOU LOVE ME: THE GENE GREGORITS FILE

CYNTHIA SANTIGLIA (EDITOR)

OUT NOW

Reading any book about Gene Gregorits, the cult US writer behind *Sex & Guts Magazine*, is like being punched in the guts and left to regain your senses in a sewage-filled gutter. This venom-spiked tome is a compilation of real and fictional accounts about Gregorits by Gregorits, his friends, his enemies and his family. It's bold, complicated and downright dangerous – just like its subject. **Billy Chainsaw**

METALLICA: NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

JIM McCARTHY & BRIAN WILLIAMSON

OUT NOW

Fresh on the heels of the recent Ramones graphic novel comes this illustrated tale documenting the 32-year-career of metal demigods Metallica. From a coked-up Dave Mustaine socking James Hetfield, to various world-conquering shenanigans, it's a tumultuous tale stained with regret, addiction, and tragedy, but ultimately padded out with bags of success. We totally dig it. **Stephen Daultrey**

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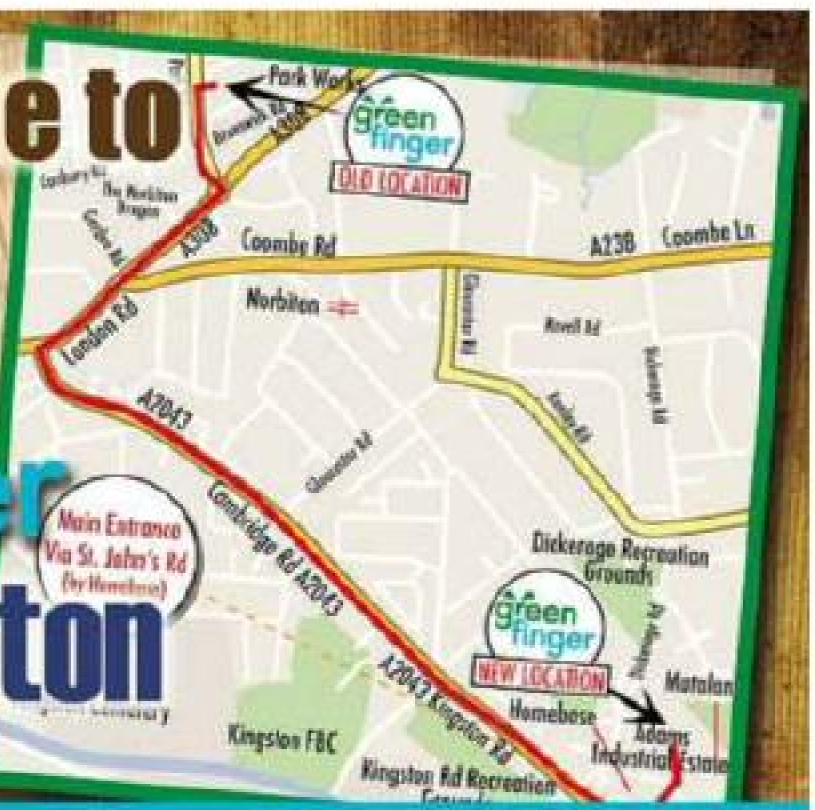
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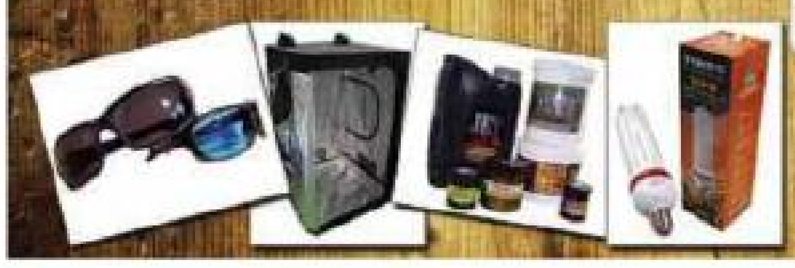

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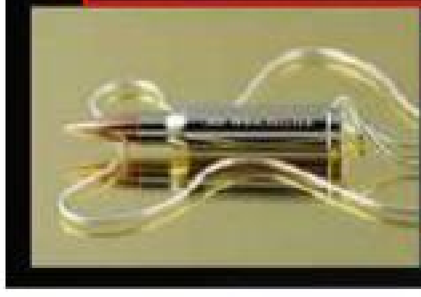

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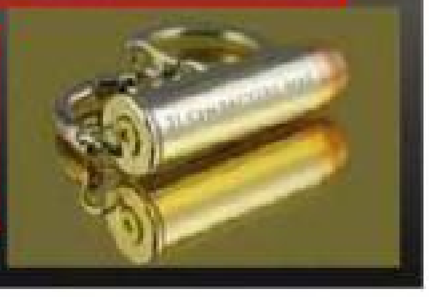

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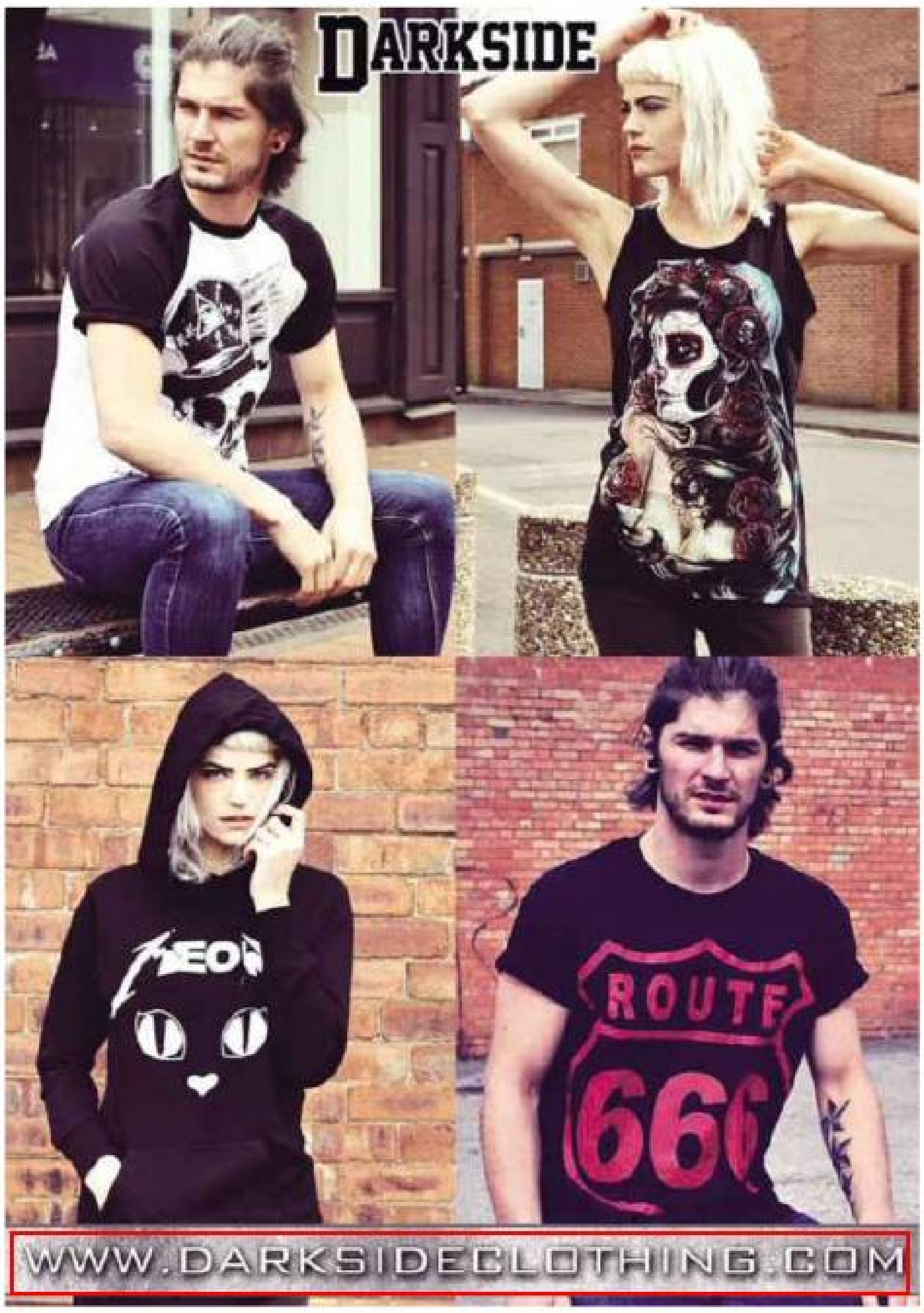

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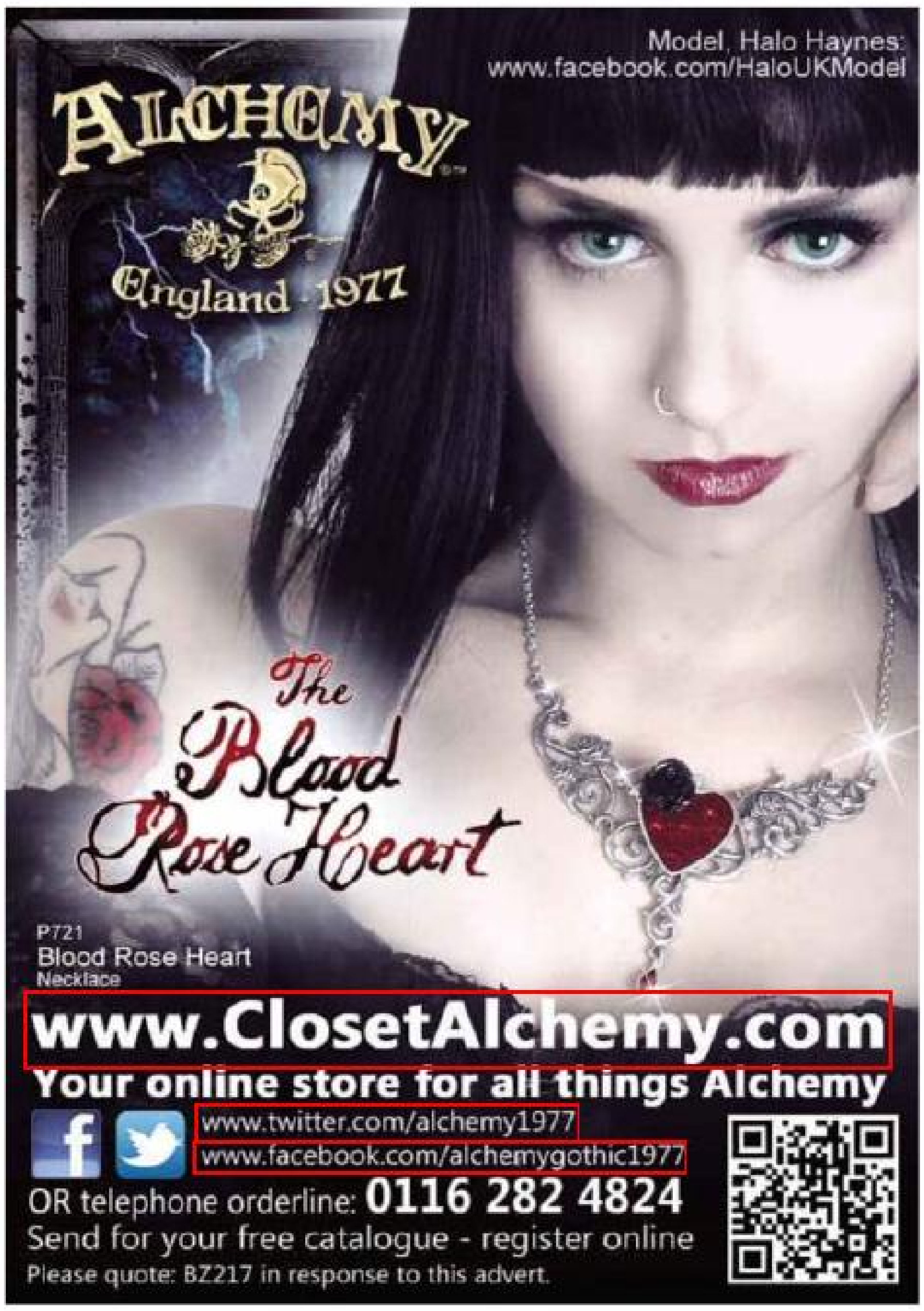

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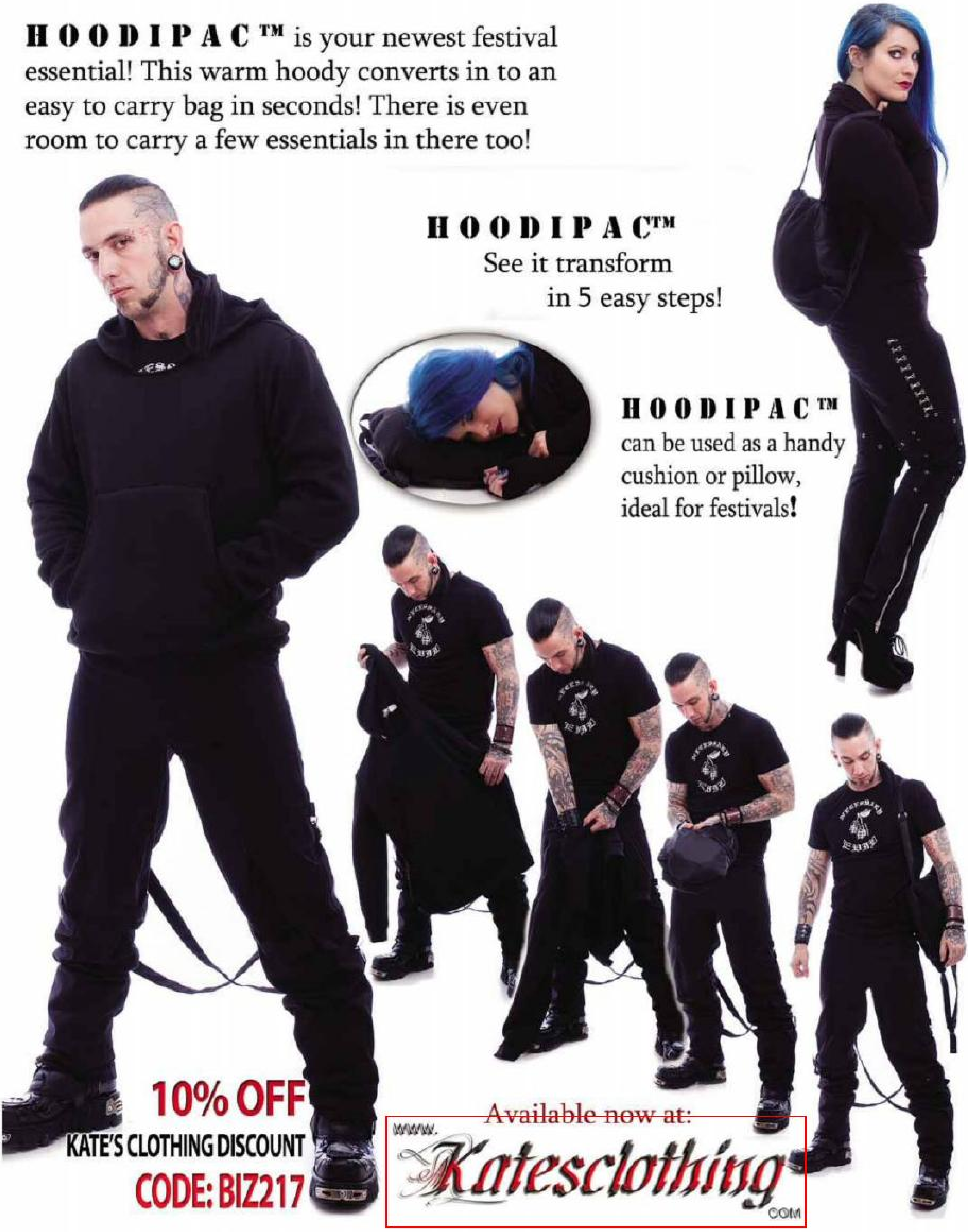

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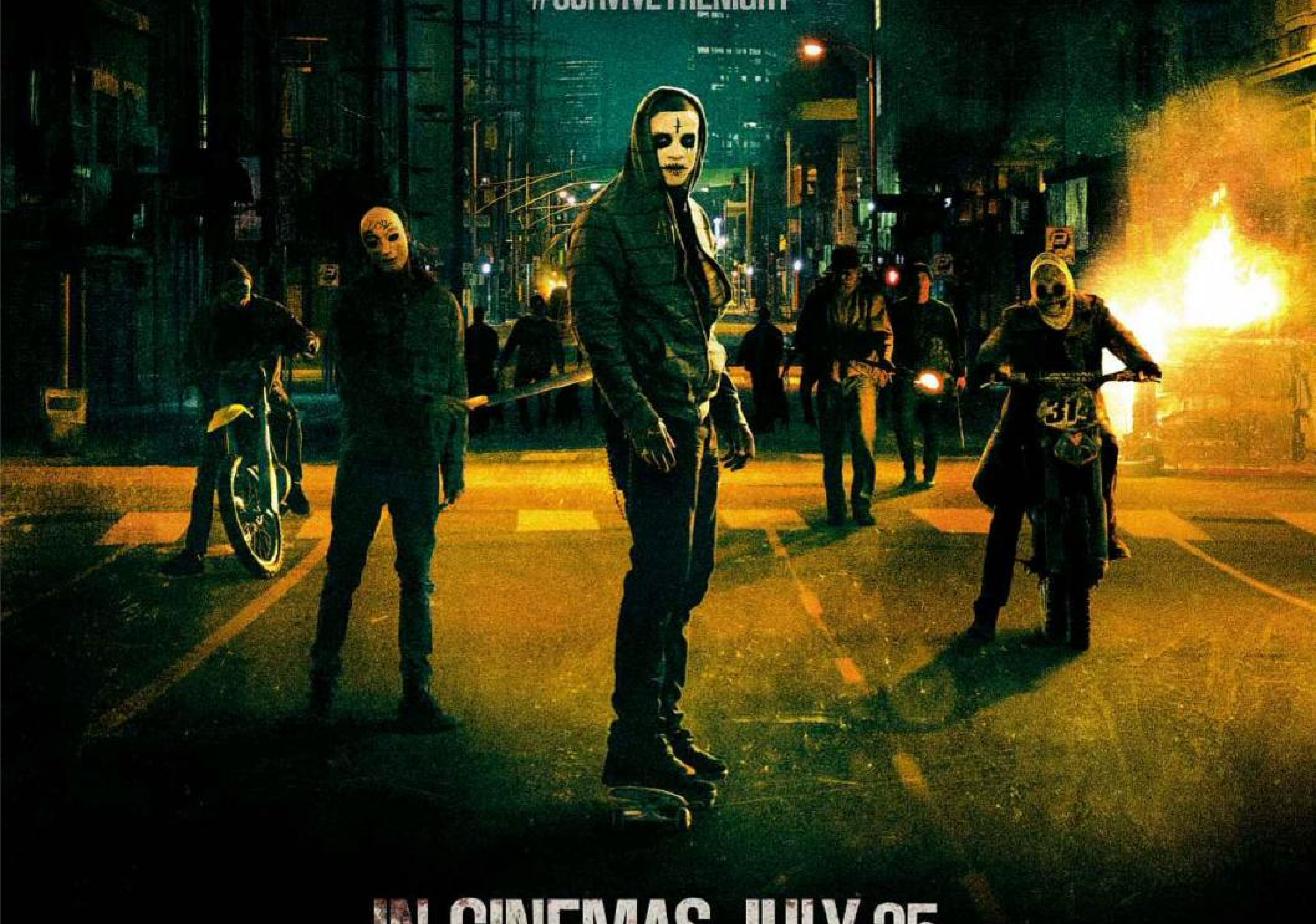

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